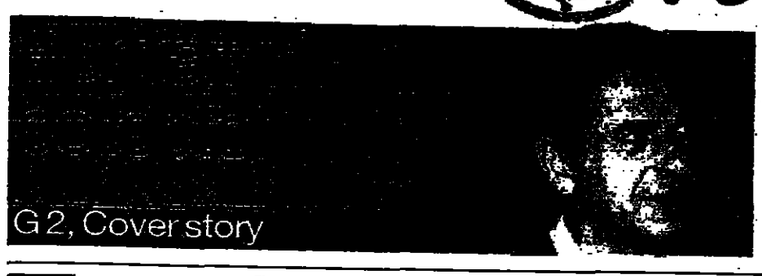
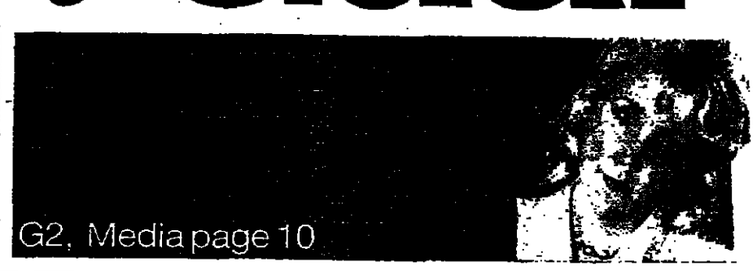
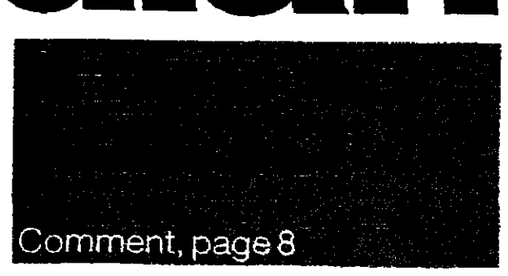
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Monday
December 7 1998
Britain's newspaper for Europe

The Guardian EUROPE


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Teachers could marry to escape abuse law



Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

MALE teachers will be able to "marry their way out" of prison sentences for getting sexually involved with girl sixth formers at their schools, Home Office officials have admitted.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, intends to press ahead with a new abuse of trust law — despite the disclosure by officials of this flaw — in order to allay concerns in Parliament over the Government's commitment to reduce the age of consent for gays from 18 to 16. The new offence is aimed at preventing the sexual exploitation of vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds, over the age of consent but under the authority of adults such as teachers and prison officers in a position of trust. It carries a two-year prison sentence and will apply to both boys and girls in straight and gay consenting relationships.

Ministers have been told that unless an exception is made for marriage they face the crazy situation that the two people involved could legally get married but would face being convicted of a crime if they had sex. Government lawyers have also advised it would conflict with the European Convention on Human Rights.

"On the other hand, to make an exception for marriage could be seen as providing a means to marry your way out of an offence," Home Office Ministers were told.

"In addition, if the age of consent is equalised, it could be seen as discriminating against homosexuals who are not able to marry."

Ministers have tried to comfort themselves that the number of such marriages is likely to be small because permission of parents is needed for under 18s to marry.

The Home Office says the new law will also have to contain a defence that the accused did not know that the young person was under 18 or that they were in a position of trust. This would safeguard the position of a teacher in a large further education college who might meet a pupil socially and not have any reason to know he or she attended his college, perhaps on a different site, and was under 18.

These loopholes lead the Home Office to estimate that there will be no more than 10 to 15 prosecutions a year under the new law.

These problems with the new law, which will be debated in the Commons in the new year, are highlighted in an internal Home Office working group report on preventing unsuitable people from working with children.

Officials say: "It is a major step to criminalise sexual relationships between ostensibly consenting individuals over the age of consent because of the position of authority or trust held by one over the other.

"Such relationships may develop naturally, not as a result of an abuse of trust. Extreme care is therefore needed in considering the necessity and scope of such an offence."

The working group concluded that there was a widely held view that all such relationships involving adults in a position of trust should be banned or severely limited. But they added that professional codes of conduct already effectively ban most of these cases.

Mark Watson of Stonewall, the gay and lesbian campaign group, said he did not oppose the new law but feared it would be gays rather than heterosexuals who found themselves prosecuted. Teachers who got involved with 17 year olds of the opposite sex would simply be asked to move to another school while gay teachers would be prosecuted.

He said the abuse of trust law was needed in custodial places such as youth detention centres.

The National Union of Teachers last night reacted cautiously to the proposals, warning that it would be extremely difficult to police such a law.

A spokeswoman said: "How do you prove that a teacher who is having an affair with a pupil has a genuine intention to marry?

"Parents need to be assured that their children are not going to be taken advantage of by teachers, and we have not objected to the abuse of trust laws that have been proposed.

"This get-out clause is something the union was not aware of. Our initial reaction is that it needs to be thought through carefully."

Cook raises trial hopes

Ian Black in London and Nick Pelham in Tripoli

LIBYA could hand over the Lockerbie bombing suspects in the next fortnight, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday after Kofi Annan's talks with Muammar Gadafy.

Mr Cook spoke of "qualified optimism" that the two men could be in custody by December 21, the 10th anniversary of the worst terrorist incident in British history.

But Libya sent out mixed signals, with the official Jamahiriya news agency warning that it was not "reasonable" to solve the "Lockerbie problem" by then, and later quoting the country's foreign ministry as saying that a solution was closer following Saturday's "fruitful" talks with Mr Annan, the UN Secretary-General.

Two hundred and seventy people died on Pan Am flight 103 and on the ground in the Scottish border town four days before Christmas 1988.

With the surrender of two alleged intelligence officers now on the table for a five-day annual session of Libya's General People's Congress, which starts tomorrow, the stage seems set for confusion. There will be increased pressure on Colonel Gadafy from African and Arab leaders anxious to end the affair.

On Saturday as Western leaders waited for results, the UN chief and his entourage were kept waiting in the freezing cold before being driven an hour across the desert to near Sirte. The talks were attended only by Mr Annan, his host and an interpreter in a giant tent warmed by bonfires.

After 90 minutes with the Libyan leader, which the UN secretary-general described later as a moment of "spacelessness, freedom, almost mystical", Mr Annan returned to Tunisia saying a solution to the problem "will require time, but not an inordinate amount of time".

Mr Cook said after talking to Mr Annan by telephone yesterday that he was "very encouraged". "Neither of us is going to predict what Col Gadafy is going to do, but I think you can sum up our mood as one of qualified optimism," he told BBC TV's Breakfast with Frost.

Diplomats revealed that the Libyan leader had appeared to accept Mr Annan's assurances that the US and Britain had no hidden agenda in pressing to bring the suspects to trial under Scottish law in the Netherlands.

Col Gadafy had also been persuaded that UN sanctions, imposed because of Libya's refusal to hand over Abdel Baset al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah when they were indicted in 1991, would be suspended and effectively lifted as soon as the men landed in the Netherlands.

Crucially, though, he continued to object to what London and Washington insist is their non-negotiable demand that if convicted the two men serve their sentences in Scotland. But, the sources said, the UN chief's "personal impression" was that the Libyan leader would come round to accepting that.

Mr Annan said he hoped internal Libyan discussions would be over "fairly shortly". Yet Tripoli's insistence that the matter be put to the people's congress seemed to promise a long haul rather than the "positive results very soon" predicted by the foreign minster, Omar al-Muntasser, after he met Mr Annan.

Libya watchers say the decision on a handover rests with the congress because it is the only body which can overrule itself. In 1982, at Col Gadafy's initiation, it ruled that the suspects would never

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A child tobogganing in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, yesterday after a cold snap brought snow to many parts of the country. Forecasters said warmer air from the Atlantic would sweep in over the next few days, and temperatures are expected to rise to 13C (55F)
PHOTOGRAPH: TONY BARTHOLOMEW

Defiant hunger striker on verge of coma says he still wants to live

Will Woodward

ANIMAL rights campaigner Barry Horne was on the verge of slipping into a coma last night on the 61st day of his hunger strike.

Friends believe he is unlikely to last the week as his potassium levels fell dangerously low over the weekend. Horne is said to be "weepy" from pain and he has now lost vision in one eye and hearing in one ear.

Horne, aged 46, was yesterday visited at York district hospital by his girlfriend, Alison Lawson, aged 29.

He issued a statement through supporters refuting reports that he wanted to die: "I categorically deny ever saying that I wanted to die. I remain determined to expose this Government's lies and hypocrisy in breaking its pre-election promises."

Horne repeated that he would call off his protest if the Government agreed to set up a royal commission "or similar independent body" to examine animal experimentation issues.

He was moved to the hospital from Full Sutton Prison, East Yorkshire, where he is a Category A prisoner serving 18 years for firebombing animal rights targets on the Isle of Wight in 1994, which caused £3 million worth of damage.



Jailed hunger striker Barry Horne with his former wife, Aileen, and son Christy in the mid-1980s

Horne is watched continually by two prison officers. Supporters say the jail authorities ordered his curtains to be closed last Wednesday, and only allowed them to be reopened on Saturday.

Robin Webb, press officer for the Animal Liberation Front, said: "I don't believe him lapsing into a coma can be too far away. I am surprised he has remained alive for so long."

Mr Webb pointed out that in 1981 IRA prisoner Bobby Sands died after 66 days, the point Horne would reach this Friday. Although Horne drank orange squash and tea for three days last month, when he began this protest he was already weak from two hunger strikes last year. His body weight has fallen 40 per cent to about eight stone.

Through friends, Horne told the Observer: "It's bad. I am fading, sinking ... Soon it will be too late."

Last week the Animal Rights Militia threatened to assassinate 10 supporters of vivisection if Horne dies. Horne said of the threat: "People must do what they feel is right in response to my death. Look at the evil of the Nazis and the level of violence needed, quite rightly, to stop them."

One of the four people named on the hit list, Mark Matfield, director of the Research Defence Society which supports vivisection for medical research, said he was in no doubt the ARM was made up of Animal Liberation Front supporters working under a different name.

Dr Matfield told the Guardian he had been a target for more than five years but added: "I don't think the animal rights extremists are going to scare scientists away from doing medical research."

John Pounder of the Animals Betrayed Coalition, which is supporting Horne's campaign, said yesterday the group was faxing the Home Office "on an almost daily basis, trying to keep the dialogue open".

Members of Horne's family visited him at the weekend. His 19-year-old daughter has just had a baby.

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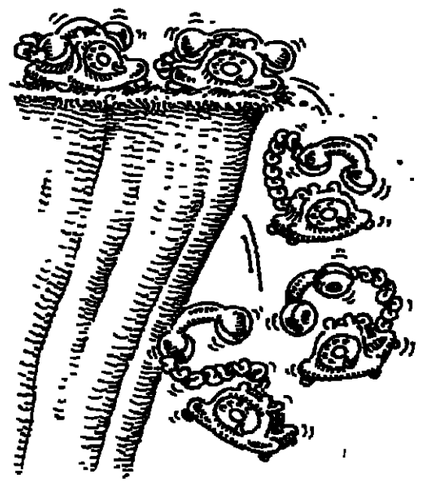
UK news
Fundamental reforms to NHS complaints procedures in cases of medical negligence are being demanded by victims' families.
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International
This week the Universal Declaration of Human rights is 50 years old. What changes has it brought to a troubled world?
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Ministers hint at EU concessions

Determination to stand firm on rebate may require trade-offs

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

MINISTERS are privately acknowledging that retaining Britain's £2 billion a year European Union rebate will require it to make significant concessions on other issues as Tony Blair prepares for fresh assaults on the repayment at this week's Vienna summit.

A senior source said last night: "We are standing firm on the repayment, but there is no question we will have to give up something."

Britain is certain to face more pressure to back down over the rebate, the annual repayment of contributions to the EU negotiated by Margaret Thatcher in 1984. The summit will also focus attention on rifts over tax.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, yesterday insisted the Government could "hold the line" against European moves to harmonise taxes. He said the Austrians — who as holders of the EU presidency will lead the summit — had said harmonisation would probably be considered "for about one minute".

He denied there were proposals to harmonise income tax or corporation tax.

"These things are not on the table. They don't exist. They can't exist without agreement by everyone. Any decision on tax has to be taken with unanimity."

The European leaders' summit, which starts on Thursday, will cover a range of economic issues surrounding Agenda 2000 — the EU's plan to reform its financing in preparation for expansion eastwards. At the Franco-British summit in St Malo last week, the French president, Jacques Chirac, embarrassed Mr Blair when he made clear his belief that Britain must be prepared to put its rebate on the table for discussion.

Other EU governments argue that the conditions in place when Mrs Thatcher secured the repayment — primarily Britain's relatively low gain through the Common Agricultural Policy — no longer apply. There is pressure for Britain to surrender the payment, or for some new arrangement under which other net contributors to the EU received similar rebates, ending Britain's prized special treatment.

Germany, which takes over the EU presidency in three weeks, has made clear its desire to see Agenda 2000 resolved by the end of its six months in charge.

The row reached surreal heights at the weekend with reports that the German finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, had attempted to "handbag" the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, during a discussion on Britain's EU budget rebate in a Brussels bar.

In an echo of Mrs Thatcher's metaphorical bag-wielding tactics when securing a rebate of "our money" at the 1984 Fontainebleau conference, Mr Lafontaine reportedly aimed a colleague's handbag at Mr Brown's head.

Standing in the hotel bar, the minister — who has already riled the Labour leadership with his calls for harmonisation — warned Mr Brown that his government would be pressing for a reduction in the rebate.

Swinging the bag, the property of a senior German civil servant, he allegedly told his British counterpart: "I'm like Margaret Thatcher, I want my money back."

"He didn't manage to handbag Gordon," an aide said last night. "And the reports have been somewhat exaggerated." Mr Lafontaine's spokesman hailed the incident as evidence that even finance ministers have a sense of humour.

Supermarket price war may follow inquiry

Roger Cowe

A SUPERMARKET price war is looming as the big chains react to sluggish sales and accusations of overcharging.

The prospect of lower prices comes as the Office of Fair Trading completes an investigation into an alleged cartel which is said to produce much higher prices than abroad.

In a report published today, the retail analyst Verdict says price has moved to the top of the supermarkets' agenda and, while none of them wants a price war, it may become inevitable.

The publicity surrounding the OFT investigation has made shoppers more aware of price and therefore made it more likely that one of the big chains will break ranks and compete more aggressively on price, according to the retail research specialists Verdict.

Clive Vaughan, of Verdict, said pressure on prices had come indirectly from the OFT inquiry, although he thought the OFT would clear the retailers.

"Whether there is a case to answer is increasingly beside the point," Mr Vaughan said. "Customers are now expecting to see price cuts. It is always a slippery slope — tit-for-tat price promotions can develop a momentum of their own and lead to a price war." Sales growth had slowed down this year and that might lead the main chains to promote low prices more aggressively.

A spokesman for Tesco said: "We are always highly competitive on price. We continue to battle on price week in and week out."

Mr Vaughan warned, however, that fierce price competition might reduce consumer choice in the long run. "If the big four — Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda — come out fighting it will ultimately mean less choice for consumers. The effect of a price war is to get rid of the weakest capacity, and that means the smaller groups."

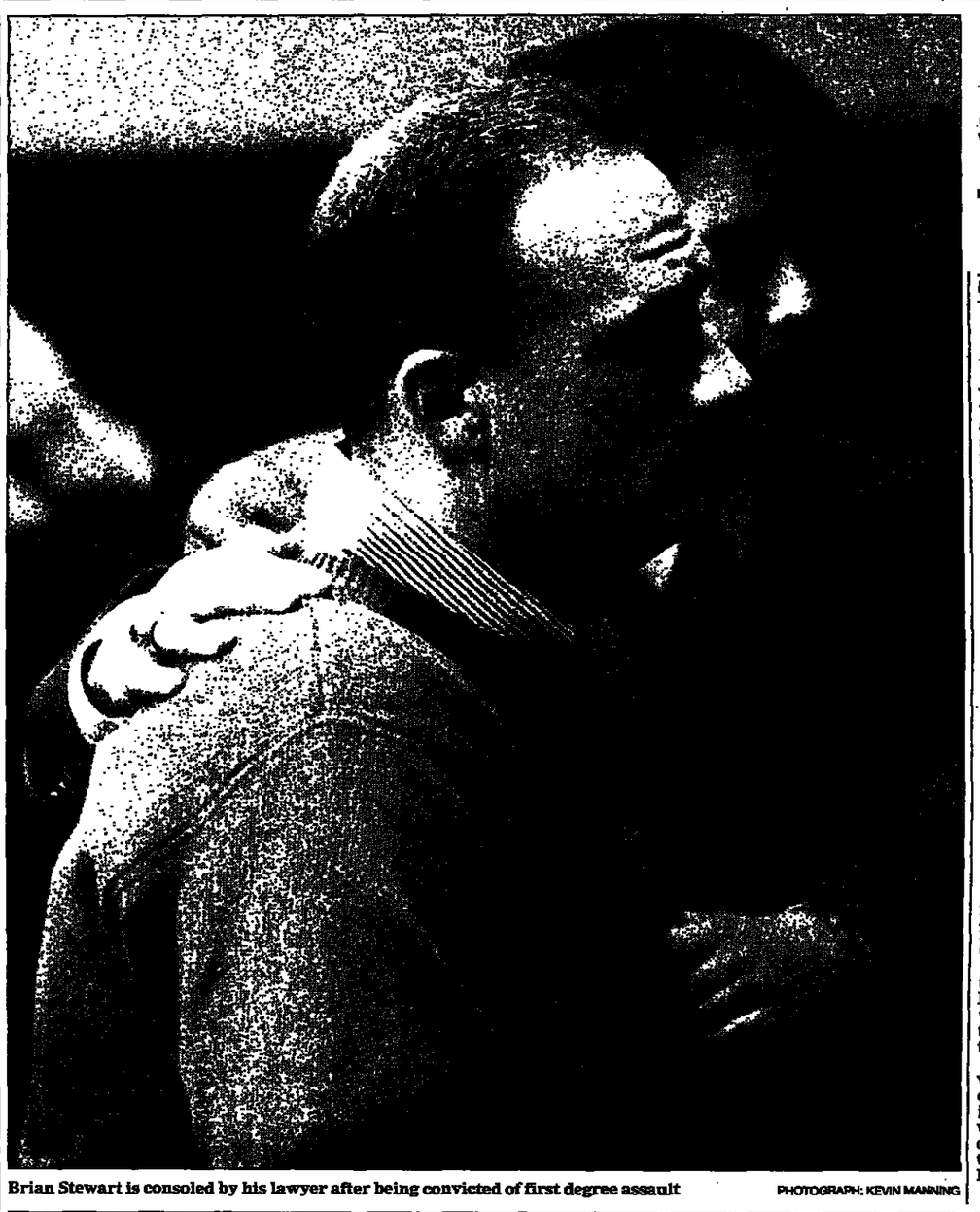
He also suggested prices might be about to rise in the cheapest grocery chains — foreign competitors such as Aldi and Netto which had brought their discount formats to the UK. The entry of these discounters in the early 1990s had forced domestic supermarket leaders to trim prices on key items such as bread and baked beans. But Mr Vaughan said the discount chains had yet to become profitable and would be keen to increase prices now that the main domestic discounter, Kwik Save, had been taken over by Somerfield.

"They don't want to come over here and make losses indefinitely," he said.

Verdict believes the fall in supermarket profit margins since the arrival of discount chains disproves accusations of a cartel keeping prices artificially high.

Today's report says the accusations, based on comparisons with foreign supermarket profits, ignore key differences in retailing and accounting, and are based on price comparisons which fail to reflect local shopping habits.

Mr Vaughan said: "I have yet to see convincing evidence that prices are higher here." Profit margins had fallen by a fifth since their peak in the early 1990s.



Brian Stewart is consoled by his lawyer after being convicted of first degree assault PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN MANNING

Man injected son with HIV to save cash

Martin Kettle in Washington

IN A case which has shocked even horror-hardened Americans, an Illinois man has been convicted of injecting his son with HIV-tainted blood in an attempt to kill him and thus avoid child support payments.

Brian Stewart, a 32-year-old medical technician, was found guilty this weekend of first degree assault on his unnamed son. The jury in St Charles, Missouri, recommended that Stewart receive life imprisonment. Sentencing was set for January 8.

The assault took place in 1992, when the boy, now seven, was 11 months old. He now has full-blown Aids.

Stewart showed no reaction when the verdict was announced on Saturday night. The boy's mother, referred to in court only as Jennifer, wept in the courtroom as the verdict was announced. She had to be escorted from the court and was sick outside.

The case has attracted nationwide attention in the United States. Last week the cable Court TV interrupted its coverage of the Clinton impeachment inquiry proceedings to broadcast from the courtroom.

In his closing arguments to the jury, prosecution lawyer Ross Buehler said Stewart was a skilled hospital assistant who had experience with the medical use of syringes.

"This was a very, very private and well thought out crime," Mr Buehler said during the six-day trial. "He wasn't going to do it in front of a witness. He wasn't going to do it in front of a surveillance camera.

"In the mind of an evil genius, HIV was the perfect disease."

Stewart believed that no one could trace the tainted blood to him, the prosecution said. In his work at the St Charles hospital, in the St Louis area, he had access to patients with Aids and was able to carry test-tubes of blood out of the hospital without attracting suspicion.

On February 6 1992 his son was being treated at Lake St Louis hospital for respiratory problems. The child was scheduled to be released that day but took a turn for the worse after a visit from Stewart. The boy suffered a rise in temperature, wheezing, lethargy and increased pulse rate. He had to spend much of the next four years in and out of hospital, before being diagnosed HIV-positive in 1996.

The defence claimed that the child could have contracted the virus through contact with known drug users and convicted child sex offenders. But the prosecution presented negative HIV test results for all the witnesses whom the defence said might have had access to the boy.

Stewart, described as a man who moved from one woman to another, had refused to admit that he was the boy's father. After a paternity test established that he was, he was ordered to pay child support. In 1997 he was finally ordered to pay his former wife $267 (£160) a month.

On one occasion, Stewart told the boy's mother not to bother seeking child support because the child would not live beyond the age of five. On another, he told colleagues: "I have the power to destroy the world" and "I would inject them with something and they would never know what hit them."

Cook raises hopes for trial of Lockerbie suspects

continued from page 1

be sent abroad. "Congress puts distance between Gadafy and the decision to hand over the two suspects," a UN source said. But sceptics called it a tactic for delay.

Mr Cook's qualified optimism contrasted starkly with official "disappointment" from the United States.

Britain says the December 21 anniversary is a significant day, but has not made clear whether it is a deadline. "If it takes another few weeks then I have the patience to see it through," Mr Cook said. US officials have said they would consult the UN Security Council if nothing happened by that time.

British and US investigations into the case concluded that the Libyan agents had planted a bomb on the plane, disguised as a radio-cassette player. The Libyans are also accused of plotting the explosion that destroyed a French jetliner over Niger in 1989, killing 171 people.

Experts believe Col Gadafy is manoeuvering to protect his regime from exposure of high-level complicity in terrorism and that he may face problems because one of the suspects belongs to a key tribe known for its lack of loyalty. But London and Washington have repeatedly signalled that if the Libyan leader sacrificed two relatively junior officers that would be the end of the story and the beginning of rehabilitation for one of their "pariah" states.

Chilled-out prog hop struggling in a massive arena

Review

Caroline Sullivan

Massive Attack
London Arena

"THIS is the biggest gig we've ever played, and if we seem a bit shy it's because we're scared," said Robert '3D' Del Naja, a pinprick at the far end of London Arena's vast acreage. Shy? Del Naja is the man who publicly swore at the Duchess of York last month when he was introduced to her at the MTV Awards.

The rapper's mother came to his defence after that outburst, claiming: "He was a very well-mannered boy. He's never been to prison or anything ghastly like that." And had Fergie been among the arena's fleece-jacketed hordes, even she might have warmed to Del Naja and bandmates Andrew "Mushroom" Vowles and Grant "Daddy G" Marshall.

Del Naja was indeed well-mannered, profusely thanking the crowd after every song as if he couldn't believe his luck in playing in this cheerless barn. His colleagues, meanwhile, went about their loosely defined business, rapping a bit, playing a bit, producing the hypnotic sound that made Massive Attack famous even before their date with the duchess.

Success, however, has ill served the Bristol trio, whose 1991 debut, Blue Lines, introduced the sinuous soul/dub/reggae offshoot instantly dubbed trip hop. Ill served them in a live context, at any rate. The dark, creeping grooves of their current album, Mezzanine, are distinctly at odds with the hangar-sized places the band now frequent. Despite the array of talent onstage, including guest vocalists Liz Fraser and Horace Andy, and despite an attempt to make the arena seem intimate with dim blue lights, there were two irreconcilable elements at work.

One was the size of London Arena, which would diminish all but the most robust of groups. Massive Attack's music drifts and glides, keyboards and dubby bass obliquely playing off each other. It's built for after-hours clubs or summer festivals. When the stage is in a different postcode from most of the audience, you have got problems.

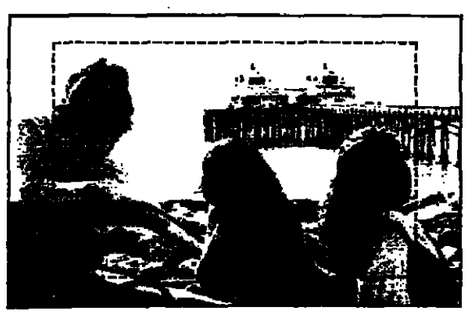
The other difficulty was Massive Attack's famously loose approach to staging a show, which consists of people wandering on and off seemingly as the mood strikes, singing a number or just wafting their arms in the shadows.

The darkness that blanketed the stage most of the time made it impossible to follow what little action there was. You could only presume that that small, dim figure was Fraser, singing the fragile hit ballad Teardrop. Andy's marrow-chilling voice would have been recognisable anywhere, but its appearances were erratic, its owner evidently summoned when the others on stage were in danger of losing consciousness through their own chilled-outness. Often there was so little happening that the term prog hop seemed more applicable than trip hop.

Massive Attack's intentions were commendable, but their methodology flawed. The only way to evoke the aromatic haziness of their records is to play aromatic, hazy places.

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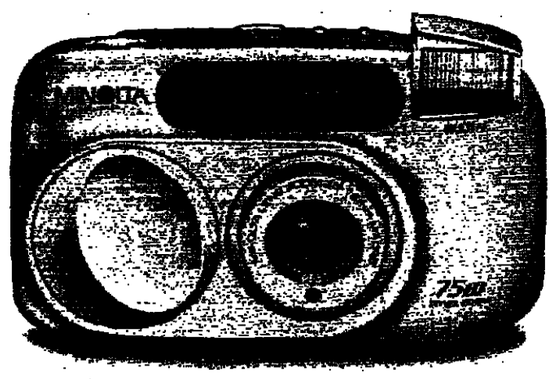
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Every which way but football for Eric



Making Mookie . . . Cantona and his chimpanzee co-star in the new comedy. The former striker plays a boxer on the run

Paul Webster on Cantona's first starring film role — with a chimp

ERIC Cantona, the former Manchester United striker, this week completes the transition from leading footballer to leading man with his first starring movie role — playing a boxer on the run from gangsters and trying to out-act a talking chimpanzee.

If Mookie, to be released in Paris this week, is a hit, it could establish Cantona as a successor to Alain Delon, France's leading male film star who announced his retirement last week. If it flops, it may damage his fledgling cinematic career as grievously as that kung-fu leap damaged his footballing reputation.

So far, little is known about how well Cantona, aged 32, portrays a professional boxer fleeing across Mexico. What is known is that Cantona is making a name for himself as the most unpredictable star in French cinema.

Promotion for the film began with an unofficial warning from his press officer that probing questions about his family or football would invite "a punch in the nose". Cantona had already wrongfooted the media by giving his only big news conference so far to a group of high school students in the Dordogne.

While the public would love to see Cantona make a footballing comeback, his few reported comments leave no doubt that the big stadiums are behind him.

"I know that many people thought I had stopped playing so that I could make a sensational comeback six months later," he told his schoolboy fans. "They've got egg on their faces now. I love to watch football and support some teams but playing — well, I know what it's like. I loved it and now I've left it."

A scene in Mookie underlines Cantona's determination to leave soccer behind. Walking down a Mexican street with his new-found friends, the chimp and a monk, the boxer bumps into some poor kids kicking a ball around.

The ball rolls under his feet, but Cantona steps over it without a glance. His future, the sequence hints, is definitely celluloid.

This is Cantona's third film, after Le Bonheur est dans le Pré (Rural Bliss) and his role as a French ambassador in Elizabeth. In the first, he played a laid-back rugby player alongside his brother Joel.

In Mookie, much of the joke centres on Cantona's thick Marseille accent, strong enough to confuse the chimp as much as many in a non-Mediterranean audience.

During the filming, Cantona was asked if the main character was really a self-portrait of a proud, morally correct, generous personality who was essentially modest and easy-going. "Let's say that all these characteristics are a fair reflection of what my friends and family think of me," he said.

The remark was enthusiastically taken up by his father, Albert. "Eric is incredibly unknown," he said. "He is a pure character, an adventurer who would make a new life for himself tomorrow even if he didn't have a sou in his pocket."

Cantona's son, Raphael, aged 10, is credited with insisting that the fledgling actor had the talent to take the leading role in Mookie. Raphael must now wait to see if his father proves a worthy successor to Clint Eastwood, who famously played opposite an orang-utan in Every Which Way But Loose. The French comedy is directed by Hervé Palud, who made Raphael's favourite film, L'Indien dans la Ville.

The next role for Cantona, who lives in Barcelona, is a misunderstood village hero in a Jean Becker picture called Les Enfants du Marais (Children of the Marsh).

Cantona's older brother Jean-Marie, whose own soccer career was cut short by an accident, is his manager and head of Productions Cantona, which finances serious stage plays. Joel, who describes Eric as "the Cantona par excellence", has also given up football for acting. But all three brothers may soon be overshadowed by their papa.

Albert, a goalkeeper turned psychiatric nurse, has been given the lead in a film in which Joel will feature. The theme? An everyday story of footballing folk. Eric has promised to watch it.

'Many people thought I had stopped playing so I could make a sensational comeback. They've got egg on their faces now. I love to watch, but playing — well, I know what it's like. I loved it and now I've left it'



Germany raises hope of deal on debt relief

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

CAMPAIGNERS seeking to rid the world's poorest countries of their crippling burden of debt were today hopeful of a breakthrough following a major policy shift by the new German government.

After years of being the main stumbling block to a more aggressive approach to debt reduction, Germany's international development minister, Heidmarie Wieczorek-Zeul, has served notice that the new centre-left coalition intends to make the issue a centrepiece of next year's G7 summit in Cologne.

Aid agencies seized on an interview by Ms Wieczorek-Zeul in last Friday's Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper in which she admitted the demands of Jubilee 2000 — which is seeking the cancellation of unpayable debts by the millennium — are justified.

Aid agencies are now looking for evidence of the change of heart at this week's meeting of the Paris Club — the group of creditor nations that decides on whether to reschedule or write off debts.

Two main items are on the agenda — the economic crisis in Russia and the inability of Honduras and Nicaragua to pay their debts following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Mitch.

Debt campaigners are arguing that the least the Paris Club should deliver would be a three-year moratorium in which interest payments would not accumulate, but stress that the long-term solution is deep and immediate debt relief.

Under the Kohl administration, Germany took a cautious line on debt relief, fearful that speeding up the process or reducing debt stocks by 80 per cent or more would simply encourage developing countries to behave irresponsibly.

However, a combination of pressure from Germany's G7 partners, a vigorous Jubilee 2000 campaign domestically and the desire of Gerhard Schröder's government to take a lead has created an environment in which progress can be made, campaigners say.

Ms Wieczorek-Zeul said: "As far as the G7 summit next spring is concerned, we want to present an initiative dealing with the poorest developing countries and my department is currently preparing this.

"In principle, we support the World Bank proposal for debt relief for the poorest and most-heavily indebted developing countries. In concrete terms, however, we want to see a shorter waiting time before debt relief is delivered, and we are in favour of raising the limit on debt reduction above 80 per cent.

"We will come to an agreement with other government ministries, and that would then be the initiative of the German government for the G7 summit. It can be discussed within the context of the justified demands of the Jubilee 2000 campaign."

Quit smoking aids may be put on prescription

Will Woodward and Clare Dyer

NICOTINE patches may soon be available on prescription under a raft of anti-smoking measures to be unveiled this week.

Low-income smokers would be able to get the patches and nicotine gum more cheaply in an attempt to persuade them to give up. Health visitors and midwives will be trained to give advice to mothers on how to stop smoking.

The Department of Health measures will be announced against the background of a High Court hearing, beginning today, which could decide whether British lung cancer victims will be able to take on the tobacco companies in court, as their US counterparts have done, or be forced to concede defeat.

In a preliminary trial, cancer sufferers and families of those who have died will try to persuade a judge to let their cases go ahead even though they were launched years after the disease was diagnosed, outside the time limit for personal injury claims.

If they fail, the survival of the case will be in serious doubt, because the number of claimants remaining could be too small to make it viable.

Personal injury claims normally have to be brought within three years of the date claimants discover they have suffered a significant injury which could be attributed to a particular person's or body's act or omission. But the judge has a discretion to allow late claims to go ahead.

Of 53 claimants suing Imperial Tobacco and Gallaher, 37 had lung cancer diagnosed more than three years before they issued writs. The litigation focuses on 10 "lead" cases, chosen to represent all the claimants. Nine of the 10 are outside the time limit.

Under other plans to be announced by the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, in a white paper, pubs and restaurants are expected to be asked to introduce non-smoking areas. There may also be curbs on workplace smoking.

Tobacco advertising on clothing is also likely to be outlawed as part of an attempt to stop cigarette makers recruiting young smokers.

Mr Dobson will bring forward by one year to 2000 a ban on tobacco advertising on hoardings, which has been agreed by the European Union for 2001. He is expected to cite research that shows tobacco firms need to recruit 120,000 young smokers a year to replace those dying.

A Health Department source said: "These people are cunning, deliberate and premeditated child killers. The killing might take 20 or 30 years but it is killing."

Marjorie Nicholson, director of the pro-smoking group, Forest, said non-smoking areas in pubs would be difficult to enforce and would be unpopular. Instead, she called for tougher laws to stop children buying cigarettes.

Sarah Boseley, page 8

Losing helps Republican millionaire Huffington to come out



Michael Huffington with ex-wife Arianna Stassinopoulos

Martin Kettle in Washington

MICHAEL Huffington, the Republican whose $28 million California election campaign in 1994 was dwarfed only by the ego of his publicity-seeking wife Arianna, has said he is glad he lost that election because it has allowed him to admit that he is gay.

The staunchly conservative Los Angeles millionaire has come out in an interview in the January issue of the American edition of Esquire, in which he admits that he dated men before his marriage in 1986 to the Greek-born socialite and columnist.

"I know now that my sexuality is part of who I am," Mr Huffington says in the interview. "I've been through a long process of finding out the truth about me."

The 51-year-old former Republican congressman said he began to date men in the 1970s while he worked for the family oil business in Houston, but became "guilt-ridden and depressed" about the relationships, one of which lasted for about a year. In the 1980s he made a vow not to sleep with men any more.

Mr Huffington told his interviewer he was uncertain of a further aspect of his identity. He was "not sure" if he was a Republican any longer, he confessed, though he was determined never to run for political office again.

Before Mr Huffington married the former Arianna Stassinopoulos in 1986 he told her about his gay past. The couple, who have two children, divorced last year.

Mr Huffington became nationally famous during the 1994 American elections when he spent $28 million — still a record for a non-presidential election contest — in a harshly negative campaign aimed at unseating the California Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein. Arianna Huffington played a prominent role, mostly but not always intentionally, as when a newspaper revealed that the anti-immigrant couple employed an illegal immigrant as their nanny.

Arianna, once described as "the most upwardly mobile Greek since Icarus", moved to London with her mother and sister in 1967. She became the first foreign woman to hold the Cambridge Union presidency and at the age of 23 wrote the anti-feminist book The Female Woman, in opposition to Germaine Greer's The Female Eunuch.

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Hague still talking tough as 'poison' in Tory ranks festers over Lords' reform

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

LORD Fraser of Carmyllie, former Tory deputy leader in the Lords, yesterday accused William Hague's aides of "poisoning the reputation" of Viscount Cranborne, the Lords' opposition leader sacked last week.

He spoke after it emerged that Lord Cranborne not only discussed the compromise plan to give a temporary reprieve to one in 10 hereditary peers with Mr Blair in Downing Street, but also had a meeting with Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman.

Mr Hague's aides portrayed the disclosure as a further betrayal justifying Lord Cranborne's dismissal.

But Lord Fraser, who resigned in protest at his leader's sacking, said there was nothing surprising in the meeting. "It fills me with some gloom that William Hague's office seem to be intent on poisoning Robert Cranborne's reputation rather than reflecting on how best working relationships with Tory peers in the Lords might be re-established," he told BBC1's Breakfast with Frost.

His protests were echoed by former Tory minister Lord St John of Fawsley, who said the deal to keep 91 hereditary peers in an interim second chamber — praised by Lord Fraser as "a good one" — had the backing of most Tory, Labour and cross-bench peers, and warned the Tory leadership not to "stupidly" try to sabotage it.

The continuing fall-out from last week's dramatic revelations of behind the scenes agreements and resignations confirms that Mr Hague will not easily halt dissent exposed by the debacle. However, speculation that his leadership is threatened is seen as unjustified for lack of an obvious alternative.

Lord Strathclyde, the former Tory chief whip now promoted to shadow Lords' leader, said yesterday that the compromise negotiated by his predecessor was still in place. The secret deal, agreed behind Mr Hague's back, laid down that, in return for retaining some hereditary peers, Tories would drop full-scale resistance to the Government's Lords reform legislation.

He said that, although he would not give the bill a "safe passage", there was now "a greater likelihood of it going through earlier".

However, Tory sources last night insisted the party would stick with its original zero-tolerance tactics in the Lords, opposing both the Lords reform bill and the European elections bill, which Mr Hague encouraged reluctant peers to vote down an unprecedented five times during the last session of Parliament. A spokesman said: "There is no deal. We will accept nothing that the Government may want to do if there are any strings attached. There never was a deal because there cannot be an agreement without the explicit authority of William Hague and the shadow cabinet."

The shadow home secretary Sir Norman Fowler yesterday insisted Mr Hague was right to sack Lord Cranborne. The peer "has described his behaviour as outrageous and he is self-confessed as far as that is concerned," he told GMTV.

But the party chairman Michael Ancram insisted there was no deal, saying he would expect Tory peers to oppose the European elections bill after Christmas.

Downing Street last night denied complicity in any attempt to "bounce" Mr Hague into an agreement. A spokesman said the meeting with Mr Campbell was on Monday after the deal agreed by Lord Cranborne, Leader of the Lords Baroness Jay, cross-bencher Lord Weatherill, and finally the Prime Minister.

Mr Hague yesterday conceded it had been an "embarrassing couple of days for the party", but said on Talk Radio that Tory members were now in no doubt as to who was leader. He insisted he had to sack Lord Cranborne for being "duplicitous".



Star attraction . . . Chrystof Bricheteau of the French inflatable sculpture company, Airvag, with its creation Entre Terre et Ciel — giant lights which are among other illuminated sculptures lighting up the winter evenings as part of the Salisbury Festival, which continues until January 6

PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

News in brief

Truckers fight fines for illegal immigrants

ROAD hauliers yesterday hit back at Home Secretary Jack Straw over plans to fine the drivers of lorries used by illegal immigrants £2,000 for every one, after he said they could stop the stowaways virtually overnight if they carried out simple checks on their trucks.

The Road Haulage Association, representing lorry firms, condemned Mr Straw's plans as "outrageous and unworkable" and said it was due to hold talks with the Home Office and still hoped to change ministers' minds. A spokesman said that the level of fines could put some smaller firms out of business, and added: "If hauliers are about to be fined every time they voluntarily approach the authorities and disclose the presence of illegal immigrants, they will simply resort to releasing [them] without informing the police. Far from aiding the fight against illegal immigrants this will exacerbate the problem."

But Mr Straw, writing in the News of the World, said almost 5,000 people were found hidden in freight vehicles in the first eight months of this year. He added: "This illegal trafficking could be virtually eliminated overnight if drivers carried out — and if employers insisted upon — some simple and elementary checks in their vehicles before moving across the Channel." To encourage them to do so, the current system of fines applied to ferries and airlines, of £2,000 per illegal immigrant they bring into Britain, will be extended to lorries.

Warning over farm drugs

MORE measures need to be taken to stop drug resistant disease passing from farm animals to people as a result of using antibiotics in intensive livestock production, according to a report by the Soil Association published today which discloses a huge increase on farms in the quantities of antibiotics also used in human medicine.

The report comes amid warnings from the feed industry that a possible European-wide ban on some antibiotics in feed — used to prevent or treat disease and to promote growth — could lead to the loss of thousands of jobs in Britain, and of retail meat prices rising if the Council of Ministers banned their use at a meeting on December 14. But the Ministry of Agriculture said today that the agenda for the meeting had not yet been decided.

The report shows that the use of tetracycline and other important antibiotics in livestock farming has increased by as much as 1,500 per cent in 30 years, and that of penicillin by 600 per cent. It also explains that such widespread usage of these drugs in farm animals could be an important reason for the increase in drug-resistant disease in humans.

Spanish blast victims named

TWO British men left fighting for their lives after an explosion in a Spanish holiday apartment were yesterday named by the Foreign Office as Melbourne David Thomas, 51 and Eric Stevens, 41, both from the Manchester area. The two, who are in a "very grave condition" in a hospital in Seville, southern Spain, suffered burns to up to 90per cent of their bodies in the blast thought to have been caused by a gas cylinder in an apartment on Tenerife, according to reports.

Drunken sex alert

ONE in seven young people have had unsafe sex after drinking alcohol, according to research commissioned by the Health Education Authority and published today. A further one in five 16-24 year-olds have regretted having drunken sex, and one in 10 have been unable to remember whether they had sex or not after a night on the tiles.

The authority is today launching a campaign, called Get it On, to warn young people to take precautions as the Christmas party season begins.

Down Under going Cockney

AUSTRALIANS are moving in on Cockney rhyming slang, according to the new Australian Phrasebook published by Lonely Planet.

Not only is Sydney referred to as "steak and kidney", but the "missus" becomes "cheese and kisses". Phrases like "butcher's" as in butcher's hook (look) and "China" as in China plate (mate) are just as likely to be heard in Brisbane as in Bow — east London heartland of the Cockneys.

Other Aussie expressions include: "Frog and toad", as in "let's hit the frog and toad" (road); ankle-biter (child); blue heeler (policeman); shark biscuits (novice surfers); poo tickets (toilet paper). Meanwhile, someone slightly crazy may be "a kangaroo loose in the top paddock"; while some things may be "as useful as a third armpit".

Two share lottery jackpot

TWO ticket holders won £3,627,226 each after sharing Saturday's National Lottery jackpot by picking the numbers: 4, 7, 23, 26, 27 and 35. The bonus number was 28.

Angry watchdog tells Railtrack to install £152m safety system

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RAILTRACK is to be ordered to improve safety standards at a cost of £152 million by the Railway Inspectorate this week, and faces tougher control on its operation.

A year-long inquiry by the Health and Safety Executive has found Railtrack consistently fails to meet the Railway Inspectorate's standards.

The inquiry is likely to lead to the Government handing rail safety controls to an independent body outside Railtrack, the privatised company that maintains the track and infrastructure. This move will be pressed on the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, in a report on Wednesday by MPs on the Commons transport select committee.

The Railway Inspectorate's concern about Railtrack will be highlighted in the HSE report showing that the prohibition notices issued by the inspectorate rose from four to 19 in the past year. Notices are issued as a last resort when the infrastructure becomes a danger to the public and railway staff.

Much of the blame will be laid at the way Railtrack manages its contractors. In spite of warnings issued two years ago, the HSE safety executive says that Railtrack has not made insufficient effort to monitor the work of its contractors and ensure its quality. A growing number of incidents are being reported. In the latest, the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT) has complained to the safety executive that following a track incident at Newbury, Berkshire, a maintenance worker was found to be sleeping in his car between shifts. The worker was based 250 miles away in Cornwall, but was sleeping in his car and did not take the 12 hour rest between shifts required by safety rules. In some cases men on look-out duties work continuously for 15 hours.

Jimmy Knapp, RMT general secretary, said last night: "I'm very concerned that rail maintenance staff are becoming industrial nomads, constantly on the move across long distances. The long hours they work is bordering on the criminal. Safety is being compromised."

The order this week for improved safety standards comes on the 10th anniversary of the Clapham rail crash, which killed 35 people and injured more than 100. A faulty signal circuit was blamed. The safety executive will tell Railtrack to fit a new train protection and warning system throughout the railways at a cost of £152 million.

The system is said to provide a higher degree of train protection, and might have prevented last year's Southall train crash, but it does not give the same guarantees for safety as Automatic Train Protection (ATP).

The introduction of ATP was one of the main recommendations of the Hidden inquiry following Clapham, but ATP was rejected by both British Rail and Railtrack as too expensive — between £750 million and £1 billion. It operates on Eurostar services.

Under the safety executive's plan, which Railtrack must implement, transmission beacons will be placed on the track to trigger emergency braking if a train is about to pass a red signal. Speed traps can be fitted at an approach to signals to slow a train travelling above the permitted speed.

But a safety executive report admits even this system will give "less complete protection" than the superior system recommended after Clapham.

The safety executive's final move will be to order the withdrawal of all slam-door carriages by 2007. It says the stock is far too old and "its crashworthiness falls well below modern standards".

Evasive action by Endeavour

Will Woodward

THE Endeavour shuttle took a three-mile detour yesterday to avoid a piece of space debris, en route to it linking up with a Russian-built module.

Astronauts fired the shuttle's thrusters for six seconds, taking it five miles clear of a piece of casing from the Delta II rocket launched last month. Although Nasa officials calculated the shuttle would in any case have missed the debris by 1.8 miles, they decided it was not worth the risk.

The debris had been spotted overnight by US Space Command in Colorado, which tracks satellites and space junk.

Early this morning, astronaut Nancy Currie is due to begin connecting the Russian module Zarya, launched two weeks ago, the second part of the space station, an American-made passageway called Unity, using a 15-foot robot arm. In the trickiest manoeuvre of the 12-day mission, Ms Currie has to operate without a direct line of sight, using computerised vision, because the two components, 44,000 lb and 25,000 lb respectively, are so large.

A third component, a Russian command module with living quarters, will be launched in 1999.

The 16-country International Space Station can stay in operation for 10 to 15 years and is, at $60 billion, or £40 million, the most expensive science project ever. For the first time, astronauts will mate equipment built by different countries.

Nasa flight controllers has allowed time for the crew to to go slowly, and to try again if the two modules cannot be linked on the first attempt.

On Saturday, in preparation for the rendezvous with Zarya, Endeavour's astronauts hoisted the Unity chamber from the shuttle cargo bay and snapped it onto a docking ring.

With one inch of clearance on either side, Ms Currie used the robot arm to raise Unity 18 feet before tilting it to an upright position above the ring.

She then lowered the cylinder to within a few inches of the ring, and the pilots fired Endeavour's thrusters to move the shuttle just enough for the pieces to snap together. "Beautiful and delicate work," radioed Mission Control.

Onus on sellers in plan to ease house sales

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

RADICAL reforms to make house sales easier and quicker by making vendors do much of the preparatory work will be made public today.

Under the proposals vendors may have to commission a survey before negotiations begin. Mortgage lenders will also be asked to accept targets under which 80 per cent of applications would be dealt with within two working days.

Initially the changes would be based on a voluntary code but the Government will legislate if the code is ignored.

Although the changes are not intended to add to the overall cost of buying and selling, the benefits will be mainly felt by buyers.

The Housing Minister, Hilary Armstrong said yesterday: "We want to make sure the housing market works for all families. We want to make it more easily understood, especially for first-time buyers, and to make it quicker so it is cheaper, easier and less stressful for all concerned."

Research shows that house-buying in England and Wales is the slowest in Europe, with an average eight-week wait between acceptance of an offer and exchange of contracts.

The proposals, which will go out to consultation with lenders and others, include requiring vendors to conduct local searches, and even surveys, before putting their property on the market so that time-consuming groundwork is complete before negotiations begin.

The consultation paper will also ask whether the vendor should include a survey in the sale package. One possibility would be to require vendors to keep a "house log book" of repairs and other work carried out.

Christmas festival is still run by women

Audrey Gillan

MEN may buy the tree, mend the fairy lights, pick up the relations, open the wine and carve the turkey but women do the lion's share of the work at Christmas.

A survey conducted by Family Circle magazine and W H Smith published today, shows the majority of women will buy the food and drink, write and send the Christmas cards, buy and wrap the presents, cook the dinner and do the washing up. Four per cent of men will write the Christmas cards or wrap up presents.

Writer and broadcaster Claire Rayner yesterday said the approach to Christmas was a generational thing. While older men tended not to enjoy it, often younger men would participate as much as their partner. "And for some older women, they have learned to love their chains," she added.

Dr Adrian Rogers, director of the rightwing Family Institute, said the survey results reflected things exactly how they should be. "A happy woman is often a homemaker and there is nothing more fulfilling than making Christmas for her family," he said. "Men are hunter gatherers, slouchers, cads and drunkards. But it works."

The survey discovered the housewives' choice of Christmas dinner guests would be either Sir Cliff Richard or Delia Smith.

The average family Christmas in the UK costs £935 while the average hostess has six guests.

Families spend an average of four-and-a-half hours a day watching television over Christmas with a third watching six hours. Four in 10 families now tune into the Queen's Speech.

Hunter cats are collared by pounce alarm to warn birds

Burhan Wazir

AN INGENIOUS cat collar could prevent the killing of millions of birds every year.

Memorably called the Liberator, the collar has an alarm noise that is triggered when a cat launches itself from the ground to leap on a bird, giving it time to take flight. The frequency of the alarm is such that, although it warns birds, it is not audible to cats or humans.

A national survey by the Mammal Society estimates that as many as 75 million birds are killed each year by Britain's 7.5 million domestic cats. Many are songbirds such as thrushes, which have seen alarming drops in their numbers in recent years.

"This device could be quite effective," said Chris Harbard, a spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. "But one thing to take into consideration is what would happen when a cat tried to jump out of the way of an oncoming car. Would the device stop the cat from saving itself?"

The alarm's maker, Khazu, says the collar, which weighs about the same as a box of matches, warns the intended prey but does not restrict the cat's natural movements or actions.

Cats continue to hunt as normal, but have no chance of catching and killing birds.

The collar was developed after research demonstrated that collar bells have little effect in warning birds.

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A Guardian investigation today highlights concern at the way the medical profession closes ranks when things go wrong. **Sarah Boseley** and **Audrey Gillan** report on calls for reform and, below, on four cases which illustrate the distress being caused to patients and relatives

Apologise for mistakes, doctors told

VICTIMS of medical negligence, their families and lawyers are calling for fundamental reforms to the NHS complaints procedure and for doctors and hospitals to admit their mistakes and apologise when things go wrong.

A Guardian investigation has discovered there is disquiet at the highest levels at the refusal of doctors to be open with patients who have accidentally been harmed. There is particular concern about the distress suffered by families who have lost a child and, in spite of years of asking, have never been told how their son or daughter died.

The massive payments and profuse apologies by hospitals in the civil courts to some patients — usually those left with brain damage or profound disability needing a lifetime of care — mask the plight of parents who can by law be awarded no more than £7,500 in compensation for a child's life. Once a hospital has paid this sum into court, often without even admitting liability or saying sorry, the family loses legal aid and has nowhere else to go.

Art McConnell's daughter Lexie died in November 1992 after doctors allegedly failed to warn of the dangers of contracting chicken pox while on steroids. He has fought through the NHS complaints procedure and through the courts to establish what happened, but has succeeded only in going bankrupt.

He is a violinist, once at the top of his profession, but he can no longer perform. "I will spend the rest of my life on this," he says bitterly.

Specialist lawyers agree the medical profession closes ranks, either afraid or unable to say sorry. Russell Levy, of Leigh Day, one of the country's top medical negligence practices, believes that the whole culture of medicine is at fault. "Doctors have this incredible fear of criticism and litigation," he said. "Doctors are brought up in a culture where they are revered and not challenged.

"We need a culture where it's openly accepted that if something goes wrong you must be absolutely contrite and frank about what happened. Focusing on what has happened really will prevent things happening and far fewer people will want to complain and consider litigation."

Arnold Simanowitz, chief executive of the Association for the Victims of Medical Accidents, agrees. "The real issue is the fact that doctors' integrity has been attacked and they cannot cope with that," he says. "If you focused on the attitude of the healthcare professionals it would result in litigation being reduced. It's all about prevention, accountability and care."

The NHS Litigation Authority, set up in 1996 to speed up the processing of the larger claims once liability has been admitted, has indicated to the NHS trusts that it is not acceptable for doctors to hide when mistakes are made.

Last year it issued a circular, asking them to look again at their policy and consider apologising and offering explanations to individuals.

"It seems to us that it is both natural and desirable for those involved in treatment which produces an adverse result, for whatever reason, to sympathise with the patient or the patient's relatives and to express sorrow or regret at that outcome," wrote Steve Walker, the authority's chief executive in the circular.

He said he was also keen to encourage doctors and managers to give patients and relatives detailed explanations of what went wrong.

The circular guaranteed that the Litigation Authority would not penalise any NHS trust for admitting mistakes.

But doctors have the protection of the law in their refusal to reveal exact details , as Will Powell discovered after his son Robbie died, aged 10. He took the local GPs to court, suing for the trauma he claimed he and his wife suffered as a result of what he claims to be the cover-up over Robbie's death.

The doctors applied for the case to be struck out. "They said they didn't have any obligation to tell me the full truth about my son," he says.

The High Court supported Powell but the Appeal Court backed the doctors and the House of Lords refused to hear the case.

Powell is now heading for Europe, alleging an infringement of his civil liberties. The General Medical Council, following the Powell judgment, told doctors that they had a moral obligation, if not a legal one, to be frank with parents.

Roger Wicks, of Gadsby Wicks in Chelmsford, is another specialist negligence lawyer who finds that the hospitals and health authorities battle hard. "I am acting for a 23-year-old girl who was damaged at birth because of the incompetence of an obstetrician. She was very seriously brain-damaged. The hospital never admitted that they had done anything wrong.

"This summer we went to court and we won the case. She will get a minimum of £3 million. This family has been living with the consequences of this for 23 years. They deperately need the money to help with her care."

The number of complaints against the NHS has steadily risen to around 6,000 a month. About 12,000 legal aid certificates were issued last year to allow solicitors to investigate cases which might go to court.

Litigation is lengthy, distressing and cripplingly expensive. Those who resort to it have often failed to get satisfaction from the NHS Complaints Procedure. The system was put in place two years ago, and last week the Government announced plans to assess how well it is working. Patients, lawyers and even clinicians agree that it is not.

Complaints have to go to "local resolution" first, where they are addressed by the doctors or health authority involved. If the patient is not satisfied, they may ask a "convenor" for an independent review. After that, there are various steps on the ladder culminating in the Health Service Ombudsman.

But the system is perceived to be complicated, cumbersome and to involve too many people from the trust or health authority.

A mediation service has been piloted. Sally and Mike Lynch, whose daughter Sarah suffered brain damage after open heart surgery, were offered mediation during their legal-aid assisted fight to get compensation. When she died, aged 11, the hospital changed its mind. Their questions are now unanswered.

"When we lost our daughter we lost our legal aid. They have now shut the door in our face. What we would really have liked is to go to court but we couldn't afford it. We are just banging our heads against a brick wall."

Hospital failed to act on doctor's fears for boy, 10



Diane and Will Powell with a picture of Robbie who dies of Addison's disease

ROBBIE Powell was just 10 when he died of Addison's disease on April 17, 1990. His adrenal glands had ceased to function and failed to pump vital hormones around his body. He had recently suffered two bouts of severe illness, which had not been properly diagnosed.

When he first became ill in December 1989 Robbie was taken to Morriston hospital in Swansea, where doctors told his parents he was suffering from gastro-enteritis. He was discharged, and when he returned for a check-up five weeks later the paediatrician said he seemed well.

The following April Robbie was taken seven times to see five different GPs at the clinic in his home town of Ystradgynlais, Powys. The five GPs said variously that he was suffering from a throat infection that had gone to his chest, or from glandular fever, or that he needed antibiotics.

Will and Diane Powell have since fought to discover what went wrong with Robbie's diagnosis and who was to blame. During their investigations, they found letters from a paediatrician who said he suspected that the boy was suffering from Addison's disease and needed a special blood test; in the other he said Robbie must be referred back to hospital immediately if he was ill again. Both these letters had been written more than 12 weeks before Robbie died, yet nothing had been done to save him.

A consultant asked later to look at the case said if the proper diagnosis had been made Robbie would still be alive.

Mr Powell pursued the truth through the civil courts, suing the health authority and the GPs. In May 1996, on the eve of the court hearing, the West Glamorgan Health Authority, which had been spent six years denying that there was any truth in any of Mr Powell's allegations, admitted liability for its doctors' failure to diagnose Addison's disease during Robbie's first illness. They offered an unreserved apology, then added: "You should be advised that the authority considers that no individual was to blame."

The Powells have been refused an independent inquiry and an inquest.

Audrey Gillan

'Your whole life is taken apart and it's all your fault'



Diane Miles

WHEN Diane Miles went into hospital to have her gall bladder removed she thought it would be a simple operation that would help improve the quality of her life. Instead it made it worse, preventing her from taking a highly-coveted PR job she had been offered in Bangkok.

Ms Miles, then aged 40, was told that her keyhole surgery at Kent and Sussex hospital in Tunbridge Wells, in the summer of 1992, would be straightforward. Instead of removing her gall bladder, however, the surgeon also took out her bile duct and sealed the top of her liver. Basically, Ms Miles said, "the surgeon got lost".

After contracting peritonitis Ms Miles, from Nutley, Sussex, was transferred to King's College hospital, London, for corrective surgery. Now she is almost always in pain and cannot work.

West Kent Health Authority admitted negligence, "but the day before we went to court they were allowed to withdraw their admission".

West Kent then tried to question Ms Miles's background. They said she should not have been offered the job in Bangkok and could not make the salary she had said she could. The case went to court in October 1996 and Ms Miles got £440,000 in damages — £60,000 for personal injury and the rest for loss of earnings. The health authority decided to appeal then changed its mind.

"It's quite tough going through it. Your whole life is taken apart and no matter what you have or haven't done it's all your fault."

Audrey Gillan

Futile quest to find out why healthy son died



William Sweeney

ALAN Sweeney was aged 23, an apparently healthy, teetotaler who died in a London hospital, on July 1, 1991. A police officer took him in after finding him outside a party, looking very ill.

His father, William Sweeney, has spent seven years trying to find out what happened and who was responsible. "It is breaking my heart."

His solicitor, Jacqueline Devenish, backs him even now that his legal aid has been stopped and he can no longer afford to employ her. She feels he has been badly treated by the hospital. "He has not had any counselling or advice or anything. They have behaved appallingly and we can't do anything about it."

Three independent consultants say Alan, of Notting Hill, west London, was misdiagnosed. Doctors believed, wrongly says Mr Sweeney, that Alan had been vomiting blood. They decided to give him a blood transfusion.

Mr Sweeney claims Alan was transfused with a total of 4.5 litres of fluid that he did not need. On the ward he saw his son holding his head and moaning. Alan suffered a brain haemorrhage allegedly caused by too much fluid, and died, said Mr Sweeney.

The hospital paid £7,500 compensation into court, without admitting liability, but Mr Sweeney would not take it. He wants an explanation, an apology and a ward named after his son.

Sarah Boseley

Patient lost case against surgeon later struck off



Brenda Johnson

AS BRENDA Johnson lay on the operating table she was reassuringly told that hers would be a straightforward hysterectomy. Things, however, went badly wrong and she lost 28 pints of blood and fluid, could not walk for two years and will suffer pain for the rest of her life.

In 1984, Mrs Johnson, from Lympe, Kent, was a patient of Rodney Ledward, the gynaecologist recently struck off by the GMC for gross professional misconduct. Then, no one questioned the Kent-based doctor's professional abilities, but recently nearly 200 women phoned a helpline saying he had been negligent.

After Mrs Johnson's operation, staff frantically called Dr Ledward but he could not be contacted.

The following morning he put in 76 stitches to stem the bleeding. When she returned home Mrs Johnson was "like a lump of jelly".

She tried unsuccessfully to sue Dr Ledward in the High Court. The judge ruled it was an accident and Dr Ledward, who boasted of being "the fastest gynaecologist in the South-east" after completing seven hysterectomies in four hours, operated for a further 12 years. Mrs Johnson had written to the GMC to complain but never received a reply.

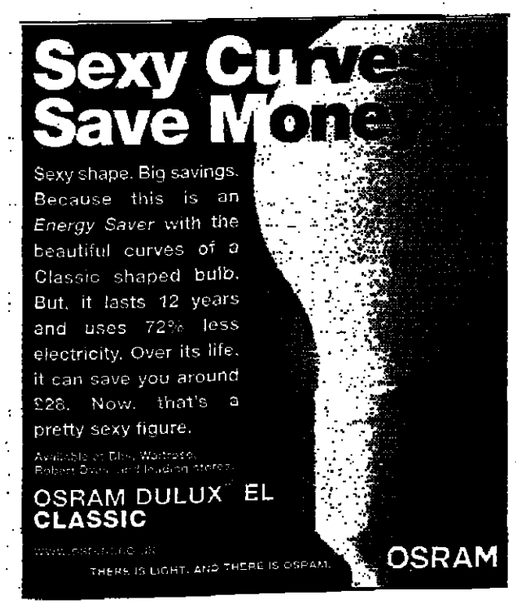
"You are made to look an absolute liar in court. There was an incident in court where they were saying I was a hypochondriac. They said "look at this, you went to the doctor with a cat bite", but what they didn't point out was that I was in hospital for three days on a drip because of that bite," said Mrs Johnson.

"It was also said in court that I hadn't been able to have sexual relations since the operation. The judge, who was about 80, said: "Why does a woman of your age want to have sex?"

Mrs Johnson, who is now 45, went on: "The summing up was more or less 'these things happen, he's only human, you are still alive, what are you complaining about?'

"Ledward stood there with such a smarmy grin on his face and they were all patting him on the back. I was still ill and had suffered nine years of indignities. I felt there was no justice."

Audrey Gillan



The man who ought to go to his grave with the European's masthead engraved on his heart is Andrew Neil . . .
Who killed the European?
Media, G2 page 12



For Christmas, will
Tony buy Jill
a new kitchen floor?
a relaxing whirlpool bath?
time at a health spa?
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After half a cruel century, humanity still waits for a ray of hope to shine

This week, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is five decades old. **Ian Black** assesses what changes it has brought

IT WAS well after midnight in the elegantly curved Palais de Chaillot in Paris, opposite the Eiffel Tower, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was presented to the United Nations General Assembly half a cruel century ago this week.

"A long job finished," commented a satisfied Eleanor Roosevelt, chairwoman of the UN Human Rights Commission and widow of the American president who had led the penultimate stage of the bloody triumph over fascism.

December 10 1948 marked an event of huge importance: three years after a world war of unparalleled savagery, the fledgling UN gave eloquent expression to the very loftiest of human aspirations.

Trumpeting hope over experience, the language echoed the American Declaration of Independence to affirm that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood".

No matter that support for these ringing sentiments was far from unanimous: Saudi Arabia abstained; South Africa, with its new system of apartheid, objected. So did the Soviet Union, demanding the primacy of national sovereignty and the collective over the individual rights it saw as the embodiment of bourgeois liberalism.

It was a moment of heady idealism in unpromising circumstances: as Mrs Roosevelt expressed the hope that the declaration would be a "Magna Carta of all mankind", the world was digging the first trenches of the cold war.

As this week's anniversary celebrations are held in the same curving, modernist edifice on the right bank of the Seine, the fate of Chile's former dictator, Augusto Pinochet, stands as a symbol of the declaration's lasting importance.

Is there to be justice or impunity for crimes against humanity? How much do rights matter? What progress has been made in 50 years? Scan the globe for examples of genocide, repression, torture, war, rape, starvation and environmental degradation and the answer might well be a hollow laugh.

But since 1948 human rights have entered the mainstream of international discourse. Even the harshest tyrant, from Baghdad to Pyongyang, uses the *language* of rights – if only to distort its universal meaning.

Algeria, bleeding in a nightmare civil war, boasts a government-backed human rights commission which catalogues the atrocities of Islamist enemies and ignores its own abuses. Other regimes have done the same to deflect criticism rather than create real accountability.

Nowadays even the most recalcitrant are urged to respect human rights: the World Bank and the IMF are offering financial aid to Burma's brutal military junta to coax it into dialogue with the opposition.

Abuses in a changing Iran get insufficient attention. Saudi Arabia, bulwark of the West, remains a black hole. Arms sales continue apace.

Yet the machinery for protecting human rights is there: by the time the bi-polar world ended in 1991, international conventions had set standards for civil and political rights and women's and children's rights, and benchmarks defining torture and racial discrimination.

Even in the face of horrors in Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda, advances have been made. Kofi Annan is the most rights-conscious UN secretary-general ever. His choice of Mary Robinson, the former Irish president, as UN high commissioner for human rights was widely applauded.

This year's UN agreement establishing a permanent international criminal court to try a future Pinochet, Pol Pot or Saddam Hussein was a landmark for international humanitarian law. So was the campaign to ban anti-personnel landmines, though both highlighted America's instinctive opposition to any commitment that could restrict its freedom of action abroad.

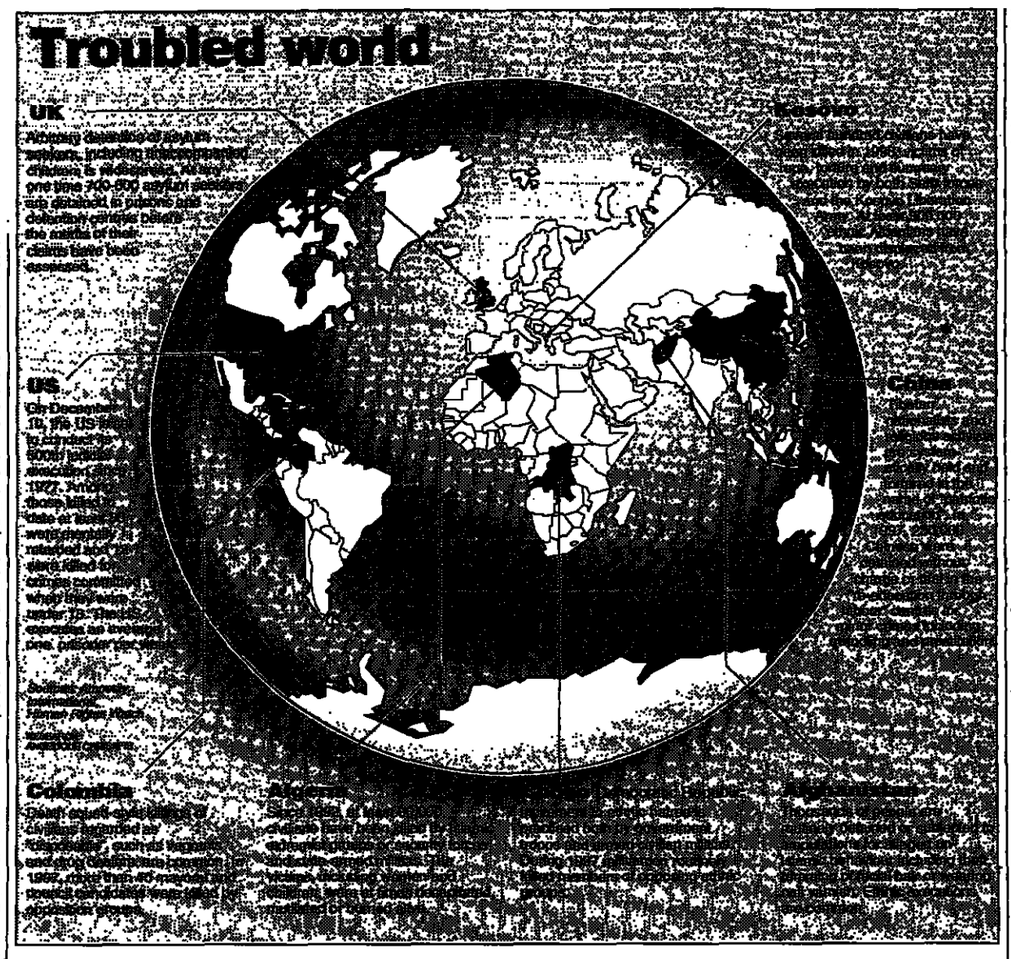
But human rights, as Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, has argued, need a broader definition if they are to become universally respected. In regions where millions live in abject poverty, Western concepts of civil and political rights can mean little if basic economic and social rights are not guaranteed.

This is difficult terrain: torture is torture in any language, but in a globalised though still fragmented world advanced industrial societies cannot assume the primacy of their humanist values.

So as diplomats and dignitaries gather again in the Palais de Chaillot, governments should be reminded of the need for vigilance about their own human rights records, as well as others' – and of a yawning gap between goals and achievements.

France has already been accused of failing to invite Chinese dissidents or Tibetan activists to this week's celebrations for fear of offending Beijing. In a world where abuses are a daily problem, not a philosophical abstraction, there can be no blind spots: Kenya should face censure after admitting that police torture is common. Friends of Egypt cannot remain silent over the detention of the head of the country's Organisation for Human Rights – apparently after receiving a British government grant.

Back in 1948, Nelson Mandela saw the Universal Declaration as "a sudden ray of hope at one of our darkest hours". What the originators drafted was a blueprint for a better future. But the job was not finished that December: it is a work still in progress.



'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood'
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

'Last year we recorded extra-judicial executions in 55 countries, judicial executions in 40, and "disappearances" in 32 countries. We believe the true statistics to be much higher'
Amnesty International

'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'
Universal Declaration

'Last year people were tortured in 117 countries. Since 1990, electro-shock torture has been carried out in over 50 countries. A number of British companies were implicated in the trade in such weapons'
Amnesty International

How the system failed to save Rwanda

Secret meetings reveal the UN ignored reports that genocide had begun, writes **Linda Melvern**

In the course of a few terrible months in 1994, a million people were killed in Rwanda. It was slaughter on a scale that the world has rarely seen since the Holocaust. Yet the international community walked away, disregarding obligations under international law.

While the genocide was going on, the United Nations Security Council held secret and informal meetings to try to agree what to do. The Guardian has obtained an account of these meetings.

Discussions about UN help for Rwanda had always been disputatious, even before the crisis started. After the crisis did break on April 6, America delegates warned of a grave and chaotic situation, while senior UN officials told representatives from member states that the Rwandan president had been assassinated, opposition politicians killed and 10 UN peacekeepers murdered. There was "not nearly enough information to be able to judge what to do", an American delegate said. Three days into the crisis, the US cast serious doubt on whether a small existing force of peacekeepers – the UN assistance mission in Rwanda (Unamir) – should remain in the country, while Britain was wondering whether the force "could continue to perform a useful function".

In the first week of killings in Rwanda, the Security Council's priority appeared to be to get foreigners out of Rwanda, and ensure that the peacekeepers were safe. It was a critical week, before the genocide was fully in train, and while the perpetrators waited for the world to react.

On April 8, two days after the crisis started, a coded cable was sent to UN headquarters from the Unamir commander, Major-General Romeo Dallaire. He wrote about a "campaign of terror, well planned, organised, deliberate, orchestrated", and directed against opposition leaders and "particular ethnic groups". The situation "would be a good deal worse without the presence of Unamir".

But there was no discussion in the Security Council about how the peacekeepers could help protect civilians: "We were kept in the dark," the holder of the Security Council presidency in April, the New Zealand representative, Colin Keating, said.

The UN bureaucracy failed to prepare adequate options for action or hint at possible intervention. This suited states which wanted the peacekeepers withdrawn, notably the US and Britain.

On Tuesday April 12, an American delegate said that the "US would not be held responsible for the gradual depletion of an isolated force". The peacekeeping mission did not look viable "under current circumstances". A Chinese diplomat disagreed. China was the only country to have kept its Kigali embassy open. There was "no immediate danger to the remaining peacekeepers".

Sir David Hannay, Britain's UN representative, ruled out reinforcements for Unamir to try to stop the bloodshed. This would only mean "a repetition of Somalia with its well-known and dire consequences". He did not favour pulling everyone out; this would have had a "negative impact on public opinion".

The troops could stay on, but Sir David queried what they could effectively do. His last idea was to pull out the majority, leaving behind "some elements". Although this might initially attract public criticism, it seemed to be the safest course.

Washington can't claim that it did not know what was happening

The next day, the American UN representative, Karl Inderfurth, spoke of a "strong feeling in Washington" that the peacekeeping force "was not appropriate now and never will be". The Nigerian ambassador, Ibrahim Gambari, said that tens of thousands of civilians were dying. "Has Africa dropped from the map of moral concern?"

Then three days later, Mr Inderfurth told them that the US had "no stomach for leaving anything there". On April 21, the Council voted to withdraw the peacekeepers, leaving a token force of 264. Britain and the US backed this.

During the debate, the Czech Republic's representative, Karel Kovanda, asked why, when the killings had been going on for three weeks, the Council had spent "80 per cent of its efforts deciding whether or not to pull out the peacekeepers", and "20 per cent trying to get a ceasefire".

On April 29, Mr Keating, the Council president, decided to try to get the genocide officially recognised by the Council membership so that the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide would apply. There were strenuous objections. Sir David Hannay did not want the word used. The Council would become a laughing stock, he said.

Yet a secret report by the US Defence Intelligence Agency on May 11 – the fifth week of slaughter – described "an organised effort of genocide being implemented". Washington cannot claim it did not know what was happening.

© Linda Melvern is author of The Ultimate Crime, a history of the UN, Allison and Busby, London, 1995. She is writing a book on the genocide.


A woman mutilated during Rwanda's genocide, where a million people were killed in 1994 PHOTOGRAPH: JENNY MATTHEWS

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Summary of the Commission's findings on a complaint from Mrs Gena Dodd – Panorama, BBC1, 3 November 1997

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld a complaint of unfair or unjust treatment and unwarranted infringement of privacy from Mrs Gena Dodd, the secretary of Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy (COTS) about the edition of *Panorama* on BBC1 entitled *The Surrogate*, broadcast on 3 November 1997.

The Commission upheld Mrs Dodd's complaint that one of her telephone conversations with the natural father of a surrogate baby had been filmed without her knowledge or consent, and that an excerpt from it, in which she accused him of lying, was broadcast out of context. The Commission also upheld the complaint that she was not given adequate time or opportunity to comment on the telephone conversation.

Mrs Dodd also complained that the programme did not broadcast the apology to the father, made in a second telephone conversation, and that a photograph of her had been used without her permission. The Commission did not uphold these aspects of the complaint.

Nevertheless, the Commission found that, overall, the programme was unfair to Mrs Dodd and that there was an unwarranted infringement of privacy in the broadcast of the conversation.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld.

A copy of the full adjudication of this complaint can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:
The Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London, SW1P 3JS.
A copy of the summary will be available on the Commission's website at www.bsc.org.uk.

News in brief

Palestinian jail protest

HUNDREDS of Palestinian prisoners joined a hunger strike yesterday to demand their release from Israeli jails, prisoners and Palestinian officials said. Some 1,700 prisoners were said to be refusing food.

About 260 Palestinians at Israel's Nafha prison began a hunger strike on Saturday. A few prisoners in Meggido jail stopped eating last week.

Israel has promised to free 750 prisoners in three stages but has angered Palestinians by including common criminals as well as political detainees in the first group released last month.

Relatives and several Palestinian officials started their own fast yesterday to back the prisoners. – *Reuters, Gaza.*

Crackdown in India

INDIA deployed thousands of troops and detained 2,000 people across the country yesterday, on the sixth anniversary of the demolition of the 16th-century Babri Masjid Mosque at Ayodhya in northern Uttar Pradesh state.

The demolition by Hindu zealots in 1992 caused deep religious and political divisions. The prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, whose Bharatiya Janata Party won power on a pledge to build a temple on the site of the mosque, has called for a peaceful solution to the dispute.

Rival protests were staged across the country, but there were no reports of serious violence. – *Reuters, Ayodhya.*

Venezuela at polls

VENEZUELANS voting in presidential elections yesterday were faced with a choice between Lieutenant-Colonel Hugo Chavez, a former army paratrooper who staged a coup attempt in 1992, and an American-educated former governor, Henrique Salas Romer, who ran as an independent.

Lt-Col Chavez was the favorite to win, so the two main parties refrained from fielding candidates and supported the independent. – *Reuters, Caracas.*

Burden eased for grooms

COUPLES in the United Arab Emirates planning lavish weddings risk a prison sentence or an £80,000 fine under a new law. The Gulf News said it was felt no groom should pay more than £8,000 as dowry money and slaughter more than 21 camels on his wedding night. – *AP, Dubai.*

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Summary of the Commission's findings on a complaint from Mrs Kim Cotton and COTS – Panorama, BBC1, 3 November 1997

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint of unjust or unfair treatment from Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy (COTS) and Mrs Kim Cotton, its chairperson, about the edition of *Panorama* on BBC1 entitled *The Surrogate*, broadcast on 3 November 1997.

The Commission found that an excerpt from another programme in which Mrs Cotton had appeared had been used out of context, and that she had unfairly been described as "boasting" about COTS in this clip. The Commission also considered it unfair that she had been described as "notorious".

However, the Commission did not uphold the parts of the complaint in which Mrs Cotton had stated that the impression had been given that COTS was a commercial organisation, that she had been given insufficient time to prepare for the programme and that other participants in the programme had been treated more leniently than her.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

A copy of the full adjudication can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: the Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London, SW1P 3JS. A copy of the summary will be available on the Commission's website at www.bsc.org.uk.

صكذا من الاصل

Impeachment risk increases as Republican whip urges the House to avoid 'a terrible precedent'

Crunch time for Clinton

Martin Kettle in Washington

BILL CLINTON is facing an increasingly uphill battle to avoid impeachment later this month after a key Republican leader dug in against allowing a vote of censure against the president in the House of Representatives.

Congressman Tom DeLay of Texas, the whip for the Republican majority in the 435-member House, said yesterday that a censure vote would be "a terrible precedent" and should be kept off the agenda when the House votes on impeachment, probably some time next week.

Mr DeLay's move comes days before the House judiciary committee is certain to draft articles of impeachment against Mr Clinton based on the Monica Lewinsky affair, and in an increasingly uncompromising political atmosphere in Washington.

A middle-ground compromise on censure is under assault in the wake of Mr Clinton's answers to 81 questions from the committee last week. In a series of stonewalling responses, Mr Clinton angered Republicans and even dismayed a few Democrats by refusing to retreat from his long-standing denial of lawbreaking in his relations with the former White House intern.

That leaves the increasing probability that the issue will come down to a straight congressional shootout on impeachment in the week beginning December 13, with only a handful of votes deciding the majority either way.

Mr DeLay's determination to prevent discussion of a censure alternative to impeachment is an attempt to tighten the screws on the crucial group of Republican waverers who do not want to vote for impeachment and would prefer a compromise censure package, including a fine levied on Mr Clinton.

The Republicans have a 228-207 majority in the outgoing House, which means that 11 Republicans would need to vote with all the Democrats and the lone independent to prevent Mr Clinton facing the ignominy of a Senate trial.

Only five Republicans were opposed to impeachment, Mr DeLay claimed yesterday, and "about 5 or 6" Democrats would vote for it.

"It's about a 50-50 proposition right now," he said. "I think if we voted today the president would be impeached, but I think it weighs very heavily on the case as presented by the committee next week."

A Republican moderate Congressman, Peter King of New York, reiterated a rival assessment of the numbers. Asked about Mr DeLay's estimate of five Republican opponents of impeachment, he said: "I know of a number of others who have told me privately they intend to vote No and I still say there are 15 to 20 who would vote No. I feel if it does come down to the wire that the president will not be impeached."

The battle for impeachment votes took place as the judiciary committee chairman Henry Hyde and the White House continued to spar about the procedures to be adopted when Mr Clinton's lawyers give evidence to the inquiry for the first time tomorrow.

The White House has asked for as much as four days to make its case. If Mr Hyde granted that request, the tight timetable before Christmas would be hard to fulfil, and the impeachment vote might have to be deferred until January, when the new Congress elected in November takes office with a reduced Republican majority of 223-212, increasing Mr Clinton's chances of staving off an impeachment motion.

On Saturday, Mr Hyde responded to the White House by seeking clarification of its reasons for asking for extra time. He said he would make "a sincere effort" to accommodate the White House's wishes but warned: "Our final decision must be guided by what is reasonable."

Mr Clinton's lawyers met at the weekend to finalise their presentation to the committee. Mr Clinton himself will not appear, and the White House has decided against calling the main players in the sex and lies drama.



Bill Clinton's cares show as he mourns the death of Albert Gore, the vice-president's father and a former senator PHOTOGRAPH: GARY HERSHORN

President's diary

Tomorrow: Clinton lawyers give evidence to judiciary committee.

Thursday: Committee begins debate on articles of impeachment

Friday: Committee continues debate; possible impeachment votes on perjury, obstruction, abuse of power

Week of December 14: House debates and votes on any articles of impeachment adopted by judiciary committee

December 18: 105th Congress scheduled to end

January 1999: 106th Congress takes office; Trial of Clinton begins in Senate

Cool young cats held the key in Taipei

John Gittings finds an unexpected answer to an election puzzle

THE key to Saturday's election upset in Taiwan is to be found not in the opinion pollsbut in a Taipei cafe which serves 15 kinds of coffee while kittens lap up the customers' milk.

Traditional Chinese culture was not known for its love of coffee or cats. But the new generation of 20-something Taiwanese has a different lifestyle and likes to meet in tasteful eating places with a distinctive attraction.

They were the ones the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) had to capture to maintain its electoral advance of recent years.

Instead, the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party reversed its historic decline, most notably in the capital Taipei, where the populist DPP mayor Chen Shui-bian lost to the KMT's new-look Ma Ying-jeou. The KMT has also regained the working majority in the legislature which it lost in 1995.

Mr Chen has been a popular mayor, cleaning up the city and presenting himself as an honest champion of native-born Taiwanese. But an informal poll at the cats' coffee shop on election day found little support for him.

"I have already voted for Mr Ma," said Ms Tang, a trainee optician.

"He and Mr Chen are both good candidates, but he's more moderate."

"No," her hairdresser friend, who also supported Mr Ma, added indignantly. "It's not because he's handsome."

"I'll vote for Wang Chien-shien" [the candidate of the breakaway New Party,which did badly in the election] said Mr Chou, a 25-year-old musician. "He's the best man: the other two fight too much."

Ms Lee and her boyfriend are first-time voters. She studies media relations; he is finishing high school.

"Most of us young people are voting for Mr Ma," he said, pausing to rescue his plate from a kitten.

"We're not bothered about him being a mainlander: he's got modern ideas, and we want to go into business."

Ms Tsai, a market researcher, and her friend were going to vote for Mr Chen, but with reservations.

"What he's done as mayor is 70 per cent OK. But closing down the slot-machine bars and stopping licensed prostitutes are just for effect. They don't tackle the real problems."

The DPP emerged from the pro-independence movement which forced the KMT to relinquish its monopoly of power. Mr Chen was a charismatic activist who went to prison for it. In 1985 his wife was deliberately run over by a KMT supporter, and remains in a wheelchair.

Today the KMT is still able to mobilise superior resources - the limit on election expenses is completely ignored - and makes good use of its connections in government and business. It also buys votes, though on a smaller scale than before.

But the contest now appears to most voters to be reasonably even.

> The coffee drinkers are happy with de facto independence

Mr Chen ran hard on his record as mayor, claiming with some truth to have made bureaucrats behave better and the traffic run more smoothly. But his reforms created enemies as well as friends.

The DPP's propaganda continued to tagret the KMT's mainland background. But it is nearly 50 years since Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan. Under the native-born President Lee Teng-hui, the KMT was able to repackage itself more effectively as the party of the "new Taiwanese"

Committed DPP supporters still believe that "Ma Ying-jeou will hand over Taiwan to the Chinese."

But the young coffee-drinkers interviewed on Saturday feel happy with Taiwan's de facto independence and do not regard this as an issue.

Mr Chen has been tipped as the DPP presidential candidate in 2000.He is now better placed to run, but he faces defeat unless he can get through to a generation more content with the status quo.

Germany for price fixing on books

Ian Traynor in Berlin

Germany has launched a crusade against plans to end price fixing on books in the European Union, attacking Karel Van Miert, the EU's Monopolies Commissioner, and the "all-powerful" European Commission.

Mr Van Miert's scheme to proscribe price-fixing in publishing represents a savage assault on European civilisation and would destroy the world of books according to Michael Naumann, the arts minister in Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's cabinet, who was poached from a New York publishing house to join the cabinet.

It would lead to the closure of two-thirds of the 4,000 bookshops in Germany and threaten 100,000 jobs in the country's publishing industry, he said.

He told a conference of European writers in Berlin that the commissioner was promoting a Europe of "prosperity without civilisation" and saw the EU "as a big economic machine" interested only in efficiency and production.

Three years after the demise of the Net Book Agreement in Britain, Mr Van Miert wants the rest of Europe to follow suit next year. German-speaking publishing, which includes Austria and Switzerland, is angry because agreements fixing prices are a lifeline for small imprints, specialist publishers and independent shops.

Mr Naumann, referring to last week's Franco-German summit, said France agreed to join Germany and Austria in fighting the plan. "Our government and France are organised against this omnipotent, I mean omnipotent, Commission," he railed. "Europe won't tolerate the arts being turned into a branch of economics."

The writers applauded.

But the German book industry also sees itself under threat from the tax reform proposals of Mr Naumann's government, which intends to scrap loopholes allowing retailers to set payments against stock.

Teamsters put faith in Hoffa name once again

Martin Kettle in Washington

JAMES P. Hoffa, son of the most infamous union boss in postwar American history, won his father's old job yesterday. With half of the 400,000 votes counted, he was the clear winner, taking 55 per cent of the vote for the presidency of the Teamsters Union.

His chief rival, Tom Leedham, was on 39 per cent, and the third candidate, John Metz, trailed on 6 per cent. Mr Leedham conceded defeat late on Saturday, with votes from the western states, which are expected to swell Mr Hoffa's vote further, still to be counted.

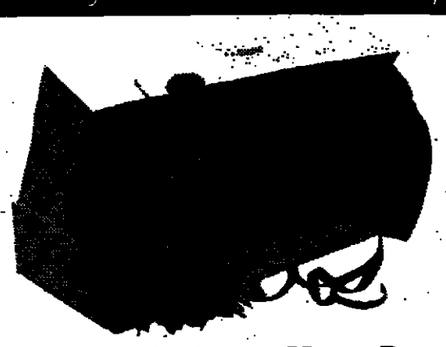
The win returns one of the most legendary – and in the case of his father, notorious – names to the top job in what is still America's biggest union.

Jimmy Hoffa led the union from 1957 to 1971, a career littered with scandal and jail terms. He disappeared in 1975.

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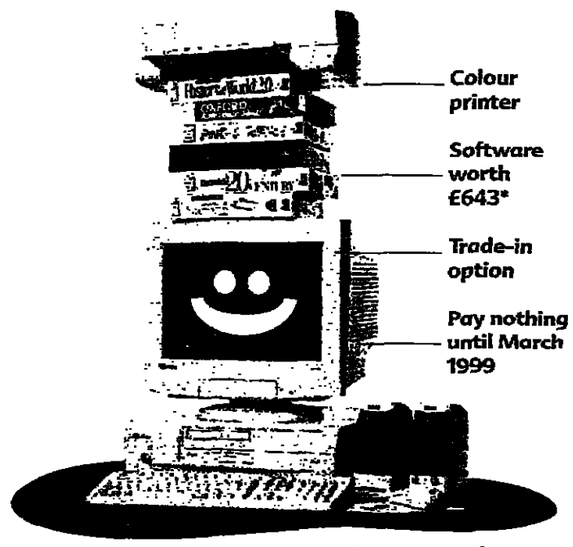
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Comment

e-mail

Phil Gunson
@Tegucigalpa

THE smaller of Tegucigalpa's two rivers, the appropriately named Río Chiquito (little river), describes a tight S-bend around what must be one of the world's least secure prisons, Honduras's Penitenciaría Central. Just across what is normally a muddy trickle of a stream is the house I once lived in: 403 Segunda Calle.

One Saturday morning a few weeks ago a flurry of shots alerted the neighbours to the latest escape bid by the prisoners on the opposite bank. "It was like the Wild West over there," said Myrna Aguiluz, widow of the man from whom I used to rent a rooftop apartment. One prisoner was killed, but for Myrna and her neighbours the jailbreak was the least of their worries.

Not since Hurricane Fifi in 1974 had the Río Chiquito — whose worst offence normally was an unappealing odour and an occasional floating dead dog — looked so menacing. Fifi was a garden party compared to Mitch. But no one had any idea how bad it was going to get.

Myrna's daughter Ofelia María, who works in the British Embassy, left with some suitcases, to be on the safe side. Myrna went to the supermarket, leaving her other daughter, journalist Myrna María, on her own in the house.

Upstream a dam, formed by rocks and trees swept down in the flood, suddenly burst. A huge wave rushed down the Río Chiquito, and in seconds Number 403 was several feet deep in churning, muddy water. So powerful was the current that the heavy wooden door was torn from its hinges. Struggling to escape from the flood, Myrna María was swept off her feet as she left the house. Only the quick wits of some young men across the street saved her from drowning.

The street I saw was almost unrecognisable. Thick, brown mud reached halfway up the ground-floor windows. Energetic digging had uncovered one side of a buried red car. Drains had backed up, the smell of raw sewage wafted from open doorways.

A FEW days later I found Myrna outside her front door among a cluster of domestic appliances salvaged from the ruins of her kitchen. She gave me a tour of the mud-stained ground floor. In one bedroom a filing cabinet drawer stood alone in the middle of the floor. "This is what hurts most," she said.

It was Myrna María's poems. "We'd been thinking of having them published," she said. Maybe they could be salvaged; she was not sure. The living room was full of smashed furniture. Mud-soaked clothes hung from the curtain rail. Miraculously the Christmas tree, decorated early in fulfilment of a New Year's resolution, was virtually unscathed.

The government has promised to declare these riverside properties uninhabitable. There has been no talk of compensation. "This is all we have," said Myrna. "I don't know what we'll do. But I still think God has been good to us. He saved the lives of my children. We have to have faith."



This time, let's declare war on the tobacco barons who kill our kids

Sarah Boseley



FOR A COUPLE of years now, the tobacco companies have been taking the sort of battering in the courts that would have destroyed almost any other industry. Mississippi, Florida, Texas and Minnesota were the first to pummel the tobacco companies into submission. Recently the other 46 American states and five territories have followed suit, extracting $120 billion from the industry towards the cost of treating those whose cigarette habit brought them lung cancer, heart disease and stroke on the slow road to death. Now the litigation that has been as compulsive as the morning's first drag on a fag to a 20-a-day man, exposing the machinations of the 20th century's very own Evil Empire, is at an end.

After such sums of money, such high drama and denunciation, it would be reasonable to assume that the tobacco companies were on the ropes, their reputation and bank balances in tatters. Documents disclosed in the Minnesota hearings and exposed to the world on the Internet revealed nearly 50 years of, at best, non-disclosure of scientific evidence about the damage cigarettes do, and at worst, lying, cheating and concealment.

But the beast is not dead. Not even nearly dead. A few heads of the hydra have been severed, but more will sprout in their place. That is why the Government's Tobacco White Paper, expected this week, has the potential to do real good. This is Labour's chance to make some progress in the most significant public health battle of them all.

They have a chance to help those in the clutches of nicotine at the moment. The UK death toll is 120,000 a year. Smoking kills, as the epidemiologist Professor Richard Peto of Oxford University never ceases telling us. Half of all those who smoke will die of it.

So nicotine patches, perhaps offered on the NHS for the poorest, linked to stop-smoking clinics at Healthy Living Centres, are undisputably a good idea. Higher taxes might force some into a definitive effort to kick the habit. Smoke-free offices will help confirm the pariah status of the smoker among the middle classes. Advertising bans will remove some of the temptation.

But most of these measures are aimed at the addict. There is a fact that must not be forgotten about that smoker. He or she was once a non-smoker, who picked up their first cigarette in adolescence — virtually nobody starts in middle-age.

So then, one would imagine that strong measures will be taken in the White Paper to deter young people from taking that first drag. Smoking is declining among most age groups in the UK, but it is rising in the youngest. According to the Health Education Authority, a quarter of all 15 year-olds smoke regularly. About 450 children take up smoking every day. The British Thoracic Society, revealing last week that women's lung cancer is likely to be deadlier than the male version, called for specific proposals to help cut the number of teenage girls who smoke, among whom there has been a particularly noticeable rise.

Just yesterday, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, indicated concern. Each year the tobacco industry needs to recruit 120,000 new smokers — in other words, young smokers — to replace the lost revenue from the dead ones. So, said a White Paper leak, he will be bringing forward the ban on billboard advertising, from the date of 2001 that the European Union is demanding — to the year 2000.

Well, that really will cut a swathe through teenage smoking. If we cannot think of a more imaginative way than that to move the hearts and minds of 15-year-olds, we may as well put the money into the extra hospital beds that will be needed in 40 years' time.

To give Mr Dobson his due, it is always tough for those in authority to find a way of getting through to kids. Youth hates everything they stand for. Smoking may well be going up because 15-year-olds want to wave a fag in the face of people who tell them not to risk their health.

AND THAT is pretty much all they hear from their elders. Most of the anti-tobacco advertising campaigns try to warn with varying shock-horror tactics of the chances of getting a life-threatening disease in two decades' time. But young people have a strong tendency not to think beyond tomorrow. Many will say, if asked, that the idea of living to 40 is quite unbearable.

A different tack has proved successful in the United States. Instead of lecturing kids on what they ought to do, it addresses them as intelligent equals. Go on, say anti-cigarette adverts — you have the right to choose to smoke. But just watch out, because a multi-billion-dollar industry is trying to play you for a sucker. You can make the choice, but you may not be able to unmake it. One of the most powerful ads shown on American TV has a Marlborough cowboy riding across the plain, rounding up hundreds of young people. As the cattle pen slams shut on them, their faces are frozen in horror. Another shows a former tobacco industry lobbyist, now with cancer, apologising for the lies he has told.

Kids do not like the nanny state. They may like the idea of the tobacco industry as an abusive uncle even less. But campaigning on manipulation by the industry and the addictive nature of tobacco have so far been out of bounds in the UK. The Tories would not wear it. An advertising campaign on these lines has been put to the Health Education Authority by a leading UK agency, but the idea of directly attacking the tobacco industry has been rejected.

On Wednesday, the HEA is due to reveal its latest advertising campaign, which runs each year from Boxing Day to No-Smoking Day in March. Will we see something more subtle this time than health warnings? The word is that we will not.

We are still moving from a Tory era into a Labour era in smoking control. The White Paper will be a tremendous advance. But if we want to stop the tobacco industry from regaining its strength out of the habits of our children, we have got to do more than nudge the beast with a toe. We have to give him a good kicking while he is down — and keep on kicking.

Foot and Kinnock lost credibility too, but already Hague has them licked

Loser of the opposition

Peter Preston



THERE is, we are constantly informed, "no immediate threat to Mr William Hague's leadership". Grave political correspondents, eyes straight to camera, intone this higher wisdom. No threat, no threat. And no news either. Who else could lead the current Conservative Party? Who else, in their senses, would want to?

History may not exactly repeat itself: but it often burps noxiously in the same general area. Now the burps of the Eighties return thick and fast, like memories of last night's cassoulet. Is Hague the Michael Foot of his day? Or the poor, gallant Kinnock? Both of them (Kinnock especially) had the prospect of credibility at the start; neither could make anything of it. They became seen, too soon, as losers — and they could never escape that drear perception. But William Hague has them licked already. He, with crunching finality, is the complete loser.

That is not a matter for unrestrained rejoicing. Good governments need good oppositions to keep them clean and focused. Good oppositions, though, have to display a measure of coherence, the promise that they might just be able to do better in office again when the wheel turns. They have to say that, implicitly, there is an alternative. Mr Hague cannot say that. He, and the rag-tag he leads, are no alternative. Nor, sliding ever deeper into the black hole of the polls, is there any prospect of their becoming one.

Thus, in practicality, the two great political stories of the time are a single tale. Our Eurosceptical press rages at the hapless William for letting Tony Blair off the Lafontaine hook. Just when they thought they'd got New Labour on the run, the Tories slip in a different puddle. But this isn't now an isolated event. It is a settled pattern.

The Mail and the Sun and the Telegraph cannot merely thunder away with their awful warnings. They, too, need an alternative for a general election which will come ahead of any euro-referendum. Some time in the autumn of 2001 or the spring of 2002, they will have to write solemn editorials recommending their readers to vote for William Hague as Prime Minister. How on earth are they to do that without ribald laughter in newsagents around the land? How can the chap who couldn't cope with Cranborne be sent over the top against Red Oskar and the hounds of harmonisation?

WE HAVE lulled ourselves into supposing that the election and the referendum, when they arrive, can somehow be packaged separately in their own little boxes, that one showing won't effect the other. Dementia. A Prime Minister Hague wouldn't have a referendum. A Conservative Party cutting huge swathes from Labour's majority would have momentum for the second test. There is absolute linkage — which inevitably means that a Tory wipeout must impact the other way round. If the party and the leader peddling scepticism carry on flopping and feuding, then the banner they carry automatically shreds as well. Would you buy a proud and defiant Britain, going it alone, from this lot?

It was not, I guess, supposed to unwind like this. Mr Hague, in the eyes of Rupert, Conrad and the rest, wasn't an ideal choice. There have been no ideal choices since Mrs T. But at least he could be gradually turned into a Young Lochinvar. His Commons performances could be extravagantly hailed and his shrewdness under fire could be solemnly praised. The lad could grow in the job just as New Labour's record began to take a predictable battering. He could be discovered and promoted afresh.

But that shows absolutely no sign of happening. As the economy slips, so does Hague's credibility. As the Government encounters the inescapable squalls that go with being in office, the Conservatives slide deeper into wastelands of peripheralisation. The voters have formed their opinion ahead of schedule. They are openly scornful — and they know there is no alternative.

The bind, if anything, is worse than that. Hague's constitutional reforms make him virtually unshiftable. The grandees (almost muttering, never surfacing) might just start a revolt in the parliamentary party which precipitates a leadership election. But such coups seem doomed to messy failure. Unless Hague himself chucks it in — and there is no reason why he should consign himself to oblivion — the Tories would face a prolonged and visceral leadership campaign, with contenders tramping the constituency halls for week after week.

A very public suicide. Worse still, even if contemplated, who would emerge the victor? Michael Howard? Peter Lilley? Shares in Liam Fox slithered last week (for he didn't know about Cranborne either). Shares in Francis Maude have yet to climb off the floor. There is no trading in Portillo shares, since there is no Portillo on the trading floor: and any mention of his candidacy, on recent form, simply re-starts the European chaos. Portillo has positioned himself to try to lead a full-bloodedly sceptical party after a general election, not before, to seize control of what rump remains. Once again, there is no alternative.

Shades of 1979. An Opposition eager to keep in the game



As the economy slips, so does the Conservative leader's credibility

Black art of questions

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

IT IS almost six years since I last asked the Prime Minister a question — an experience which I always anticipated with excitement and terror in equal proportions. I enjoyed the occasional success, endured a couple of complete humiliations and invariably wasted all morning working out ways of catching Margaret Thatcher, and the dozens of civil servants who briefed her, off guard. In the end I always decided to bowl her a metaphorical leg break. My first ball was so slow that she hit it over my head into the echoing back benches. The second was intended to exploit the blue-haze of adrenaline that, thanks to the earlier triumph, was impairing her judgment. Once or twice she was bowled middle stump, hitting wildly across and over the ball. Sometimes she struck me for a second six. At least I never made the mistake of regarding Prime Minister's Questions as an opportunity to obtain important information.

Perhaps it should be. In the noble world for which all politicians crave, the Leader of the Opposition would invite the Prime Minister to set out policy on some contentious subject and receive a reply which was always accurate, occasionally interesting and often deeply damaging to the government's interests. But party politics is not like that. Prime Minister's Questions is a spectator sport. If it were not, CNN would not screen it each week to American viewers who have no idea what is going on but regard the recorded highlights as more entertaining than professional wrestling. The contestants have no choice but to play to the gallery. Last Wednesday, William Hague made the elementary mistake of not knowing which gallery he wanted to amuse and, in consequence, was a flop in both the upper circle of Parliament and the gods of public opinion.

Neil Kinnock always hoped to speak over the heads of the House of Commons in order to make headlines — Labour Will Cut Hospital Waiting Lists, or Under the Tories Waiting Lists Grow Longer. I simply wanted to score a cheap point. Having endured the howls of Conservative derision when Margaret Thatcher gave me my first question on the bum's rush, I longed to see their dismay when she fell flat on her victorious exuberance. Even though my tactics did little to ennoble Parliament, I knew what I was after. Last Wednesday, William Hague clearly did not.

Having decided to sack Lord Cranborne, he should not have mentioned the Lords' reform during the three o'clock knockabout — thus allowing the dismissal of His Lordship to be announced in detail and dignity. Foolishly he tried to use the brief reprieve of 91 hereditary peers to prove he was a man of principle. He must have known — for he had already been told of the Cranborne Conspiracy — that the Prime Minister would reply that the Tory leader in the Lords had swallowed Labour's bait. Prime Minister's Questions did not provide Mr Hague with an opportunity to develop his complicated reasons for disowning the compromise. So he looked like an ass. He could have exploited the occasion to his immense political advantage.

> Once or twice I bowled her, and sometimes she hit me for six

Let us assume that — with or without under-breath cursing and silent teeth gnashing — Lord Cranborne and his deal had both received the Hague Seal of Approval — not a totally improbable hypothesis as he has now agreed to one although he has dismissed the other. The Leader of the Opposition could have then come to the House and, smiling his boyish smile, asked a question which reeked with innocence. "When will the Prime Minister make the official announcement that we have come to an agreement to reprieve 91 hereditary peers?" Tony Blair could have replied that negotiations continued and that he would make a statement when the time was right. Or he might have implied that there was something dishonourable about William Hague's spilling the beans before they were cooked. But neither of those answers, nor any other of which I can think, would have saved the Prime Minister from the accusation of cheating his own party.

One question might well have done enough damage for one day. But if the unaccustomed taste of blood had increased William Hague's appetite, he could have gone on to ask: "Is the Prime Minister aware that we welcome the Lord Chancellor's retreat but we are not prepared to continue negotiations in this hole and corner way?" A little piety would then have been appropriate. "We are considering the constitution of our country. It needs to be done openly and honestly."

Had William Hague behaved in that way, this weekend's headlines would have been very different — even though Tony Blair was obviously right to accept the temporary reprieve. Nothing that Labour promised precluded the abolition of the hereditary peers in two stages. Everything the party stands for requires the Government to find time for more domestic legislation. No doubt you are thinking — high-minded reader — that it would have been wrong for the Prime Minister to be embarrassed because he did the right thing. Of course it would. But Prime Minister's Questions is no more about justice than it is about the merits of the argument. If the Leader of the Opposition has still to learn that sad fact, the Tory Party are in more trouble than I realised before last Wednesday.

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'Consumers have at last got canny. It is fashionable to be frugal'
John Moger, Letters

New Nato for old

St Malo didn't help much

WHEN NATO's foreign and defence ministers meet in Brussels this week, their inquiries about the latest Anglo-French declaration on defence are unlikely to be animated. The Defence Secretary, George Robertson, trumpeted the agreement signed at St Malo on Friday as the start of a new era in defence co-operation. But this new era has the character of a New Year's resolution. It rings with good intentions, has minimal substance, and of course we heard it last year and the year before that. What Nato's other members will be wanting to know is whether any concrete changes were agreed by Britain and France last Friday.

There has long been talk of developing Nato's European pillar, a formula for the Europeans to shoulder more of the Nato burden, both in terms of cash spending and the contribution of men and hardware. Equally, there has long been talk of giving muscle to the European Union's common foreign and security policy. The problem was the relationship between these two. In the days when France refused to play its part in Nato, suggestions for giving Europe its own defence identity were viewed nervously in Washington as a device for developing an alternative to Nato. British governments shared the US suspicions, while the Europeans saw the British hesitation as proof of Albion's incorrigible aversion to everything continental.

With the end of the Cold War a genuine "new era" dawned. The collapse of the Soviet Union meant discussions on Nato's future could take place in a calmer atmosphere. France and Britain started to talk about defence co-operation. The crises in Bosnia and Kosovo demanded intervention, as well as exposing the weakness of Europe's military structures. Neither Britain nor France could put together a rapid reaction force of several thousand men, but required technical intelligence from American satellites. To project more power over a longer distance and keep it engaged for several months they would need US transport aircraft and logistical support.

The St Malo agreement resolves none of these difficulties. As a sop to the Americans it talks of the capacity for "autonomous" rather than "independent" action, but does not say what items are to be procured to make that possible. It avoids the thorny issue of Europe's security architecture and whether the Western European Union, which groups those nations which are members of both Nato and the EU, is to fade away or grow stronger. Above all, it says nothing about the two major decisions which the US wants the member states to reach by April, when Nato celebrates its 50th anniversary. The first is whether Nato should expand its shadow to cover the whole of Eurasia, with authority to act anywhere in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and central Asia. The US is pushing for such a shift to get broader automatic backing for its global pretensions. The second point is whether such moves could be undertaken without authorisation from the UN Security Council. Under Nato's original mandate these issues never arose. It was axiomatic that Nato was an alliance for mutual protection, and any state had the right under article 5 of the UN charter to use force in self-defence. Nato's own founding treaty recognised the "primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security".

To undermine the UN's primacy and turn Nato into a regional or global policeman is an even more dramatic shift than Nato's absorption of three former Warsaw Pact states of central Europe into full membership. This year's Kosovo crisis brought a consensus within Nato for intervention, though the issue of UN authorisation was fudged. To go from a single emergency to a permanent change in policy requires a much fuller debate. It would be better not to push it through in the few months which remain before April.

A mission too far?

Gadafy still elusive

THE Libyan People's Congress, which begins one of its rare sessions tomorrow, is expected to consider whether to hand over the two suspects in the Lockerbie case for trial in the Netherlands. This follows Kofi Annan's meeting with Colonel Gadafy this weekend. But it is not clear that a deal is in prospect, even though the United States and Britain have gone a long way toward promising that the Libyan regime will have immunity from the consequences of what it may or may not have done 10 years ago. No witnesses from Libya would be called. Gadafy has been given to understand, and the trial would focus solely on the guilt or innocence of the two men charged with the murder of the 270 people killed when the plane went down. In return for putting the two Lockerbie suspects on the hook, to put it bluntly, Gadafy gets off it — along with any leaders in other countries who may have had a hand in Lockerbie. He gets more, in particular an effective end to sanctions. These, while not of great consequence economically, are a political problem for Gadafy because Libya's well-off class resents the isolation they impose and especially the travel difficulties the suspension of air links has created.

Against this the Libyan leader has to weigh the political disadvantages of handing over the two suspects, sacrificing them in a way their families and clan constituencies will presumably resent. The difficulties Gadafy is still apparently making no doubt arise from his assessment of the balance between these two factors. He would have a better chance of offsetting the disadvantages if he could point to a complete lifting of sanctions, but he has been offered only a suspension because of other matters, including a second aircraft bombing in which Libyans may have been involved. He may be holding out for a complete end to sanctions, while maintaining his demand that, if convicted, the two should serve their sentence other than in Scotland. Since he knows that Britain and America will never concede this, it gives him an escape route if he decides that a deal at this stage is too dangerous for him politically.

Letters to the Editor

Punch below the belt

NORMAN Stone (Letters, December 2) asks me why more Kurds in central and western Turkey have not voted for the HADEP. Firstly, the knowledge that the 10 per cent barrier vote imposed by the Turkish system would make their vote a wasted one given their minority status; secondly, fear. Let me repeat: more than 100 have been killed. Stone also asks for evidence of "mistruths". Willingly. "It is still the done thing for a man to marry four times . . according to the Turkish army". I know of no studies, but I do know many Kurds. Two wives, maybe. One, more likely. Four? Forget it.
Julie Flint.
London.

WHILE you were one of the only newspapers to report fairly and reasonably accurately on MEPs expenses (Labour MEPs promise 'clean regime', December 3.), there was one mistake: checks are made that MEPs actually made the journey for which they claim. They have to present their boarding passes.
Richard Corbett MEP.
Labour, Merseyside West.

IT'S tough enough being a medium-sized UK operator facing down the megacorps from the US and Germany, without British-owned newspapers giving unwarranted free publicity to the competition (Surfing for festive bargains in cyberspace, December 5). All three books quoted as cheaper at Amazon, the US Internet bookshop, were cheapest at The Internet Bookshop (www.bookshop.co.uk).
Ross Beadle.
Internet Bookshop, Oxford.

LORD Onslow (Comment, December 4) credits General Napier with saying "Peccavi" on his conquest of Sind. In fact, it was Punch which provided the caption as pun rather than censure. Punch's readers then did not need the translation "I have Sind".
Ben Walsh.
San Francisco, USA.

HAS anyone researched the effects of ecstasy on beef-eating, mobile-phone users (Ecstasy may cause brain damage, December 5)?
P Woodford.
Teddington, Middx.

Making the connection

SOON after becoming editor of Thames Television's This Week I was approached by Mark de Beaufort (producer of The Connection) with a drug story in Colombia (Carlton admits TV fake, December 5). I took him on as a fixer and sent him with an in-house team to make the film. None of his key contacts appeared, but my team produced a very creditable, watchable and verifiable film.

The problem with The Connection and programmes like this now lies with the system, and not only with producers who don't wholly subscribe to the sanctity of the truth. I knew all my reporters, producers and researchers. I knew their backgrounds and experience. Covering stories in places like Colombia, any editor can only depend upon the veracity and integrity of the team. There are no easy phone calls that can be made to check on the story.

Today the publisher-broadcasters like Carlton, desperate for ratings, do not have the same background knowledge of the people offering them programmes. The pressure on independent producers to sell ideas and make programmes is enormous. The more sensational the idea, the easier it is to trail and the more likely it will be to get bums on seats. The pressure on all concerned to allow this sort of material on to air is obvious. The tragedy is the breach of faith with the public.

Every time factual programmmes are proved to be inaccurate or worse, deliberately wrong, the public loses more faith in the medium. The reputation of the once respected television documentary, solid in its facts (and here I offer Death on the Rock as a prime example), is fast being eroded. It will soon be perceived as having the same integrity of our least-reliable newspapers.

The fault lies with the casualisation of production people and companies like Carlton which are not interested in providing solid, quality programmes made by staff people, but only by cutting costs and using cheap casual labour. The fault also lies with the so-called light regulatory touch of the ITC and worse still with Mrs Thatcher's Broadcasting Act.
Jack Saltman.
Former editor, This Week.
Claygate, Surrey.

AS a documentary TV writer/producer with a work span of 45 years, I find Gavin Weightman's complacent confession (Faking it, December 5) that he faked a limited number of documentary sequences quite unacceptable.

His arguments are not new. In 1964, I directed a BBC documentary on Marshal Tito, with the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean. While he and I were on the island of Brioni, interviewing and filming Tito, my assistant assembled a brilliantly edited sequence of Yugoslav partisan activities and German atrocities. I happen to be familiar with a great deal of wartime archive and feature film material and recognised that he had "borrowed" a good many shots from both feature films and from documentary footage shot all over the world, but not in Yugoslavia. So I insisted on dropping these shots. "Who is telling the bigger lie?" he asked, "you, confining your historical narrative to genuine material, shot in wartime Yugoslavia, or I who is telling the audience what really happened?" I replied that as long as I was in charge I would refuse to mislead the public, as our documentary archives were in danger of becoming tainted — and ultimately disbelieved — once you began faking, however pure your motives.

It is a sad commentary on documentary standards that a younger generation should now adopt so debonair an attitude to documentary filmmaking, as taken by Gavin Weightman. Whether you film original material or use archival footage, if your means are fraudulent, your ends are compromised.
Stephen Hearst.
Stanmore, Middx.

Punters wise up to Christmas

GEORGE Monbiot (Rip-off of the children, December 4) demonstrates his ignorance of children in quite a spectacular fashion. Does he seriously think that children never nagged their parents for anything before the age of television? Does he wonder why there has been no advertising at all for the yo-yo, this year's highest selling toy?

Advertising does not create Christmas, let alone the spirit of giving; neither can it steal money from our pockets. Advertising offers choices, often persuasively; it doesn't and can't make Christmas miserable, but George Monbiot certainly seems to be trying to.
Lionel Stanbrook.
Deputy director-general, Advertising Association.

IT IS not consumer confidence that is hitting the high street — or a recession. Consumers have at last got canny. It is fashionable to be frugal. They have learned to ask "Do I need it?" rather than "Do I want it? Advertisers should realise that there is not an inexhaustible supply of suckers.
John Moger.
Braunston, Northants

I FIND the phrase "pester power" insulting to children and inaccurate. Advertising implants false expectations in children and it is the awareness of these expectations in adults that drives them to the shops. I have never been "pestered" by my children; my motiviation for spending inappropriate amounts of money comes from my sense of inadequacy, and my desire to make my children happy.
Emily Mumford.
Wymondham, Norfolk.

IT seems not to have occurred to Mr Monbiot that giving children toys ("over priced trash") might be perfectly harmless and that the act of giving might actually be great fun for child and parent.
Toby Andrew.
(Father of three), London.

I HEARD of the sad plight of men subject to the necessity to shop at Christmas. I laughed heartily. I remembered my father, more than 70 years ago, having no money to spend on other than the necessities of life at Christmas. He looked at me and wept quietly.
S H Potter.
Great Bridgeford, Staffs.



Bloody-minded blood donor

I SEE that the National Blood Transfusion Service has engaged Joanna Lumley to try to persuade us to give blood this Christmas (Report, December 5). I would love to be able to respond to her invitation, but the NBTS won't have me — not because of illness because of age. I was 70 in September and after a lifetime giving blood, I am told I no longer need apply. And not even a thank you for the 80-plus donations I had to my credit.

Yet I am still the same fit and well person as I was before my birthday (I swim three times a week and occasionally still engage in scuba diving). I have never been given any convincing medical reason why it is that when I am 25,567 days old I can happily give blood, but when I am 25,568 days that service is no longer acceptable. It is the most blatant ageism I have yet encountered. I live in hope; I am coming up to town on December 18 and will report with my gold donor card to the Margaret Street donor centre and see what happens.
Derek Willson.
Bognor Regis, W Sussex.

No substitute

IT IS not only the World Health Organisation which believes that breast-feeding is the best option (To buy or not to buy, Consumer, November 19). The same view was expressed by Henri Nestlé himself and by the Nestlé company ever since. However, infant formula (not, incidentally "powdered milk") is a valuable and highly nutritious substitute whenever breast-feeding is not available or is inadequate.

Your reporter says surveys which suggest that Nestlé is not following the WHO Code on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes happen with "monotonous regularity". The groups from which he takes his information have indeed been producing reports making these accusations for 20 years. Hundreds of their claims have been conscientiously investigated by Nestlé and by independent people and they have been found to be unjustified. The issue of free and low-cost supplies has for all intents and purposes disappeared; other allegations are false; some are untraceable and without evidence; some are about products or practices not covered by the code. In those cases where there has been an error it has been corrected.

Twenty years ago Nestlé responded positively to the criticism of its marketing activities. Since then we have been willing to make further changes where we have been shown the need by people acting in good faith.

And contrary to your earlier suggestion (Brands up, Consumer, November 5), Nestlé makes no secret about the brands it owns. Many of our products — for example chocolate, breakfast cereals, ice cream and milk products — carry the Nestlé logo prominently on the front of the pack.
P H Blackburn.
Chairman and chief executive, Nestlé UK Ltd.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters.

Peaceful protest has fuelled the advance in animal rights

KEVIN Toolis (In for the kill, Weekend, December 5) gives the Animal Liberation Front all the credit (or blame) for the collapse of the fur trade, the reduction in non-medical vivisection and the closing of animal circuses.

This is simply not true. The main factor has been the massive increase in peaceful animal rights campaigns supported by thousands of people who had nothing to do with the ALF. This has led to much greater public awareness of the suffering involved.

The fur trade has collapsed due to successful campaigns such as the Lynx billboard posters. Circuses with animals declined in the 1980s as many local authorities banned them from their land in response to peaceful lobbying and because demand declined due to animal welfare problems identified by groups such as Animal Aid and the RSPCA.

The decline in non-medical vivisection has been due to many factors, including the development of non-animal research techniques, and the success of companies such as the Bodyshop, showing we do not need to use animals.
Richard Mountford.
Birmingham.

OF COURSE it's possible to find someone who thinks that animal welfare requires an end to industrial society, but this is as representative of the bulk of the animal rights movement as the Khmer Rouge is of the socialist movement. The Labour Government has improved the position of animals in a broad range of areas, notably animal experiments, which are being eliminated for cosmetics, offensive weapons, tobacco or alcohol products.

But animal experimentation remains the area where suffering for limited benefit is most widespread, for an obscure technical reason. Legislation requires experimenters to show that suffering caused by their proposed experiment cannot be avoided without invalidating the experiment. But there is no test of reasonableness or proportionality. So if it is proposed to test that extreme stress causes hair to turn white, it is legal to inflict extreme stress on animals to see what happens to their fur colour — even though the experiment appears to have no potential use whatever.

If the application was also required to be assessed for such factors as the potential importance of the experiment to human and animal welfare and the extent to which it duplicates earlier research, it would be possible to reduce painful experiments to the core of potential medical breakthroughs which most people still accept.
Nick Palmer MP.
Labour, Broxtowe.

The Book of Wives


David McKie

CAN you think of a bleaker sentence than this? "So I spake unto the people in the morning; and at even, my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded." It's almost as if the Prophet Ezekiel regarded the death of his wife as some kind of minor interlude, something which in our terms might have cropped up between a morning's shopping and an afternoon at the football. In fact on closer inspection there's a reason for his being laconic. The Lord, he records, had warned him that he intended to take the desire of Ezekiel's eyes away at a stroke, and there was not to be any mourning. Ezekiel, as a diligent priest and prophet, complied.

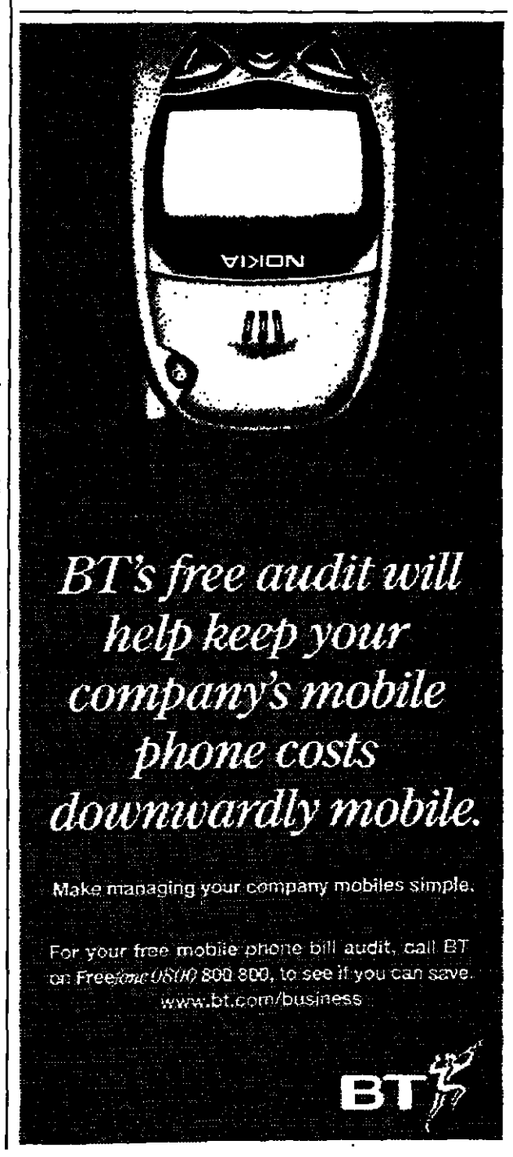
But one cannot help wondering, reading this sentence, what life must have been like for the wife of an Old Testament prophet. Certainly one would not, on the evidence here, envy the lot of Ezekiel's wife. Better, no doubt, than the lot of Lot's wife; but still, one would guess, tough going. In the book of that name, Ezekiel's duty constantly drives him to go out and warn various people and groups — princes, false prophets, idolaters; Ammonites, Assyrians, Babylonians; Jerusalem, Egypt, Mount Seir and all Idumea — of the doom that awaits them. Jeremiah may have given his name to the language as a merchant of gloom, but Ezekiel is hardly less doom-laden. Sometimes he seems more of a Jeremiah than Jeremiah. What could he have been like at home? One hopes that, in the same way as comedians are famously miserable as soon as they leave the stage, so a Jeremiah-like Ezekiel may have been a cheerier figure when back home with the desire of his eyes. As it is, all we know of Ezekiel's wife is that she died and was left unmourned by her husband; and no amount of Biblical scholarship will ever go further than that.

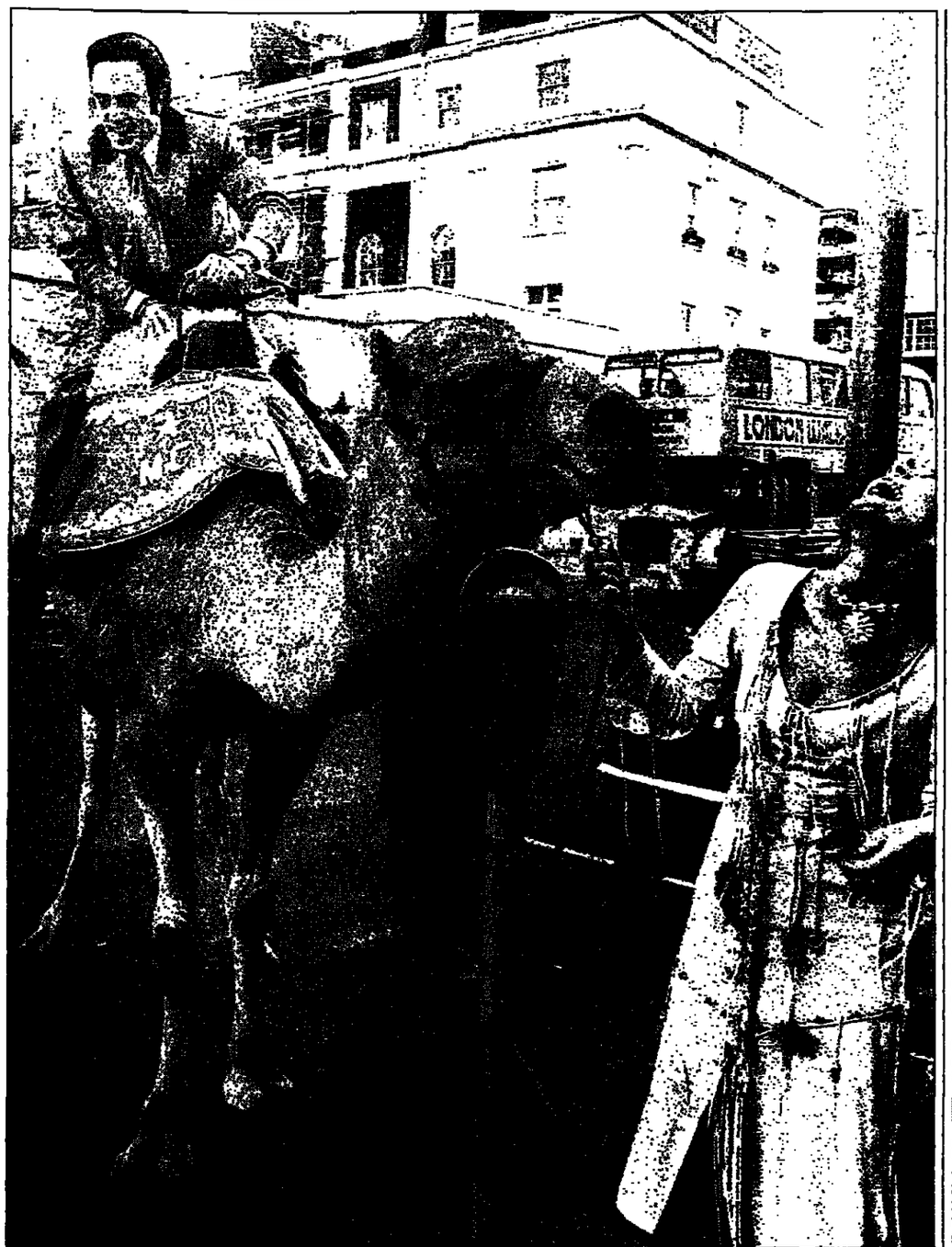
Rather to my surprise — having always imagined them celibate — Old Testament prophets seem to have married as often as not. Isaiah may have been married twice (scholars think there were different authors at work in the Book of Isaiah; the marriages seem to belong to the first one). He was father to two sons at least, whose names were apparently chosen to further his work of prophecy. In Chapter VII, he sets off with a son called Shear-Jashub, which means "the remnant shall return".

IN CHAPTER VIII he "goes in" (an expression we used to discuss a great deal at school) to "the prophetess" and a son results whom they call Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, which being translated means: "In making speed to the spoil, he hasteneth the prey." A great deal more interesting that, may I point out to impending parents, than Kefron or Lee.

Jeremiah, a lonely soul at the best of times, forswore all notion of marriage, which one expert suggests may have been because of what happened to his predecessor Hosea, whose experience seemed to indicate that marriage was incompatible with a mission to prophesy the agony of his nation. I turned at once to Hosea where I found a heart-rending tale. The Lord tells Hosea to take a wife of whoredoms and the children of whoredoms. He responds by marrying someone whose name we actually know: Gomer, daughter of Dublaim, who before very long (if I've read it rightly) becomes first a harlot and then a slave. Hosea subsequently buys her out of slavery for 15 pieces of silver and a homer and a half of barley. Better minds than mine have asked themselves why such things were required of Hosea, but it certainly furnished him with a series of plangent metaphors in which faithless Israel repeatedly sins but is rescued and redeemed.

But it's not just Old Testament prophets whose perhaps significant wives remain frustratingly wrapped for ever in mystery. Even if, strictly speaking, no such person existed, we know Arthur was married to Guinevere, not least because of the consequences when she misbehaved. But who remembers the name of the wife of King Alfred? (To save you looking it up, it was Ealhswith). What of the wives of the great Greek philosophers? One assumes there was no Mrs Plato ("he never married" his obituarists probably wrote) but there was certainly a Mrs Aristotle — Pythias, with whom he had a daughter, also called Pythias; there was also a son from what is described as "a later union". And Mrs Socrates — Xanthippe — became famous in her own right, for being a shrew and a scold, whose onslaughts Socrates bore with what his friends thought was exemplary patience. Like Jeremiah, she has given her name to the language. Famous for being ghastly, where other wives full of merit are uncharted and wholly forgotten. Typical.





Super trouper . . . Hanson and camel on a charity stunt in 1976 and (below) his ubiquitous image of Red Shadow

John Hanson

Serenading the nation

THE tenor/baritone John Hanson, who has died aged 76, was forever associated with the role of the Red Shadow in Sigmund Romberg's *The Desert Song*, but he was far more than a one-role singer and his talents embraced composition, lyric-writing, production and direction. He overcame many adversities — notably ill-health — to achieve international success.

He was born John Watts in Oshawa, Ontario, to English parents, both accomplished amateur musicians. His mother's own ill-health led to a return to England and the family lived first in Coventry, then near Birmingham and, finally, in Dumfries.

As a boy, John possessed a sweet-sounding treble voice. At the Dumfries Academy he was encouraged to sing solo and he also sang in local church choirs. He would burst into song at the slightest opportunity — his school pals dubbed him "the singing fool". The idea of a professional singing career was clinched by seeing the film musical *Tell Me Tonight*, starring the tenor Jan Kiepura, and his ambitions were boosted when the BBC offered him two *Children's Hour* radio spots.

Soon afterwards he worked a week with Charles Shadwell and the Coventry Hippodrome Orchestra and about the time that his voice broke, Shadwell offered him work with the BBC Variety Orchestra. A parental veto prevented him from joining Jack Payne's band. Then the second world war prevented him from studying opera at the Milan Conservatoire.

After a spell as a trainee telephone inspector, which involved shinning up telegraph poles, John worked in an aircraft components factory in Coventry. Like his father, he contracted tubercolosis and was declared medically unfit for military service after a few weeks in the RAF.

His first major post-war opportunity came when his singing teacher, Mavis Bennett, got a him a billing in *Night Of A Thousand Stars* in Birmingham with Kay Cavendish and Jack Train. Bennett then introduced him to the impresario Harold Fielding. More en-



gagements, and a move to the capital, followed, although his poor health was exacerbated by the appalling 1946/47 winter. Then came a 20-week contract with Bernard Delfont's *Summer Serenade*, on the Isle of Wight, followed by some rather unglamorous work with Blanche Coleman and her all-girl band, which did, however, include a television booking.

On New Year's Day 1948, John made the first of six radio appearances with Troise and his Mandoliers. This was followed by Frankie Howerd's *Ta-ra-rah Boom-decy*. By summer 1949 he was performing in Jack Payne's *Just For Fun*, at Herne Bay, and via Payne he won a contract with the BBC for a series of *Songs From The Shows*, another for Geraldo's *Melody Time*, and a third for a *Variety Bandbox* spot.

Songs From The Shows was, at that time, presented by another John Watts and to avoid confusion, the singer agreed to change his own name to John Hanson — taking his mother's maiden name. His 1950 Yarmouth summer season run, *Laughing Through*, subsequently formed part of a television show. Then came a spot on the radio comedy *Ray's A Laugh*, and on Mantovani's *Sunday Rhapsody*. By 1952 John's fame was nationwide.

In 1953 he concentrated more on live performances, and was invited to take the role of the Red Shadow in a touring production of *The Desert Song*. In 1956 he released his first album, a compliation of Noel Coward songs. In 1957 he decided, with his friend, Clifford Mollison, to finance his own *Desert Song* tour. It was highly successful, less so when repeated in 1958, but by then he had also invested in the rights to Romberg's *Student Prince*.

The Student Prince opened in February 1959 and produced a handsome profit. This paved the way for productions of Rudolf Friml's *The Vagabond King*, which alternated with *The Student Prince* in 1960. A record of music from both was a best-seller. By 1963 John had also appeared in *Lilac Time*, and in 1964 *The Maid of the Mountains* — which he re-wrote and for which he composed a couple of new songs.

At the suggestion of the *Coronation Street* actress Pat Phoenix, he turned the play *Smilin' Through* into a 1966 musical, *When You're Young*. This was not a great success but by then John had released *The Music Of Ivor Novello* album, appeared in *The World And Music Of Ivor Novello* and taken on the radio series, *The Hanson Hour*. The following year, at a month's notice, he had the chance to put *The Desert Song* on in London's West End. The idea met with press ridicule as the revival of such an old-fashioned piece, but it was a triumph and John's Red Shadow image was stamped forever on the national consciousness.

In 1972 his own musical, now back to the title of *Smilin' Through*, opened in the West End and was critically panned, though audiences loved it. The poor press notices, however, frightened the show's backers and *Smilin' Through* was taken off after only four weeks. Hanson never really got over that crushing disappointment. But the successful pattern of his career on TV and in musical revivals continued.

John gave many performances suffering from flu and, on one occasion, chickenpox. In the 1980s his health deteriorated further, and he went unwillingly into retirement. He is survived by his wife, the former Brenda Stokes, a daughter and son.

Tim McDonald

John Hanson (John Stanley Watts), singer, born August 31, 1922; died December 4, 1998

Senator Albert Gore

Prophet of the new South

SENATOR Albert Gore, who has died aged 90, was the father of the current American vice-president, Al Gore. In a congressional career spanning 14 years in the House of Representatives and 18 in the Senate, he built a formidable reputation as an unusually progressive southern politician — from Tennessee — whose forceful conscience often found him in trouble with his constituents.

In the furore sparked by the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling against school segregation, he was one of only three southern politicians who refused to sign the segregationist manifesto issued by 83 of their colleagues, charging the justices with "substituting their personal political and social ideas for the law of the land".

In his memoirs, Gore later commented that the manifesto placed him in the position "of either violating my legislative conscience by signing a thoroughly unsound document or of appearing to go against the South. I took a stand on principle".

In spite of such clashes with popular opinion, Gore's dogged rise from rural poverty, his brilliance as a speaker, and his homespun ability to woo the voters by playing country fiddle tunes on the hustings, helped to secure his repeated return to Washington.

He was born to a farming family in the small Tennessee community of Granville. His initial education was in a one-roomed school and, though he graduated successfully from high school, there was no hope that his family could support him through college. With the Depression in full swing, he began teaching to raise the fees and attended various colleges as a part-time student.

Later, working for a local ironmonger, he developed a profitable sideline buying unsorted tobacco leaves, grading them, and selling them on at a profit. He also showed his first interest in politics by organising the local branch of the Young Democrats and becoming its main speaker. That attracted the notice of Senator Cordell Hull, and Gore was encouraged to enter his first election as a school superintendent. He lost but was later given the job when the winner died in office.

In 1938 the voters of Tennessee's fourth congressional district sent him to Washington to represent them in the House. He showed his independence from the start. His *maiden speech, in opposition* to Roosevelt's expansion of the federal housing authority, was so persuasive that the measure was unexpectedly defeated.

With America's entry into the second world war Gore waived his exemption to military service, refused the offer of a commission and volunteered for the US Army as a private. The president initially resisted the move but, after the congressman had been re-elected in 1941, Roosevelt relented and Gore served with a combat unit in Europe.

In 1952 the boundaries of his district were changed and Gore decided to run for the Senate against an 83-year-old, expecting to win his seventh six-year term. Gore won the seat and, based on the experience he had gained in the House, made a private vow to attend every session. His assiduity soon made him one of the chamber's best-known figures and helped him form innumerable cross-party friendships and political alliances.

One of his early battles was



Gore . . . political nous

against the Eisenhower administration's attempt to privatise parts of the Tennessee Valley Authority, one of the shining icons of the Roosevelt years. His greatest legislative achievement was the establishment of America's vast interstate highway system. Gore's bill to establish 40,000 miles of motorway was presented at a period of superpower rivalry. With Congress in a mood to pay almost any price to counter the Russians, Gore had the nous to call his proposal the "defence highway system". It romped through.

He fought to secure civilian control of peaceful atomic power and was one of the first legislators to demand a nuclear test ban to stop atmospheric pollution. The end of his political career came amid the racial and political passions of the late 1960s.

Gore repeatedly voted against the widening conservative agenda — to prohibit school busing, permit school prayers, resist controls on gun ownership, and to appoint more conservative justices to the US Supreme Court. He was also one of the earliest and most powerful critics of the war in Vietnam but, as he commented wryly in later life, "That was against the grain of the prevailing sentiment in Tennessee: show Tennesseans a war and they'll fight it".

In a bitter 1970 campaign Gore only just secured the Democratic nomination and was roundly defeated in the general election by his Republican opponent, William Brock. His later, and prosperous years, were devoted to interests in the energy business and to breeding Aberdeen Angus cattle. He is survived by his wife Pauline and his son Albert Gore Jr.

Harold Jackson

Albert Gore Snr, politician, born December 26, 1907; died December 5, 1998

Birthdays

Sir Fred Atkinson, economist, 79; Ellen Burstyn, actress, 66; Mike Carr, jazz musician, 61; Prof Noam Chomsky, philosopher, 70; Kaffe Fassett, textile designer, 61; Prof Lawrence Freedman, war historian, 50; Prof Norman Gowar, mathematician, 58; David Hirst, footballer, 31; Sir Bryan Hopkin, economist, 84; Chris Joynt, rugby league player, 27; Victor Kiam, president, Remington, 72; Lady Limerick, chairman, Expert Group on Cot Deaths, 63; Edmundo Ros, bandleader, 88; Sir Sydney Samuelson, film commissioner, 73; Eli Wallach, actor, 83; Helen Watts, contralto, 71.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: The fells, awash with water, couldn't take any more rain. Mardale Waters, the becks flowing out of Blea Water and Small Water, were white tumults of cataracts. Haweswater full to a foot below the spillway in the reservoir dam, and the trudge up the so-called track to Gatescarth Pass — nowadays sadly wrecked by motorcycles and mountain bikes — little better than a paddle up a rocky river-bed. But the day was bright and sunny, the views so clear we could pick out people climbing the Rough Crag ridge to High Street, and a splash of red berries on a holly tree by the beck seemed an early welcome to Christmas. Two pairs of ravens were wildly circling overhead and, once, a very much larger bird passed through them on a straighter, more stately, course. Could this have been a golden eagle?

We struggled to the top of Harter Fell. I used to go from the Haweswater car-park to the highest cairn in an hour. This day, earlier fitness a sad memory, it took nearer two hours. And, on top, out of the balmy sunshine below, we climbed into a different world — a biting wind, right out of the north-east, that made progress a struggle, ice on the pools, and a dusting of snow on the frozen ground. No incentive to stop for a drink or a sandwich: getting down out of the freezing gale seemed the only priority.

And so we came down, still fighting the wind, to lovely Small Water — the finest of our mountain tarns, according to many people — and then, past crashing waterfalls and plunging becks, to more sheltered pastures. Across Shap Fells on the way home, after our short winter outing, we drove towards a too-blazing red sunset. It would rain again tomorrow, we thought. And, of course, it did.

A HARRY GRIFFIN

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

A REPORT in Guardian Education, page 27, December 1, about animal testing and the cosmetics industry, said, "Even Sir Paul McCartney, who has long campaigned (with his late wife Linda) for animal rights, says that some tests — the kind that save human lives — *are* justifiable." Although he has been widely reported as saying something like that, these reports are wrong and stem from the same source, a misquotation from a radio interview. In the interview, with reference to animal tests in the US, Sir Paul said he understood that some of them were necessary by law. In reporting the interview, the final two words and the reference to the US were lost. Sir Paul's position remains as he expressed it in a recent interview with People For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals: "I'm totally against experiments on animals. I don't know of a case where it's necessary and I haven't been persuaded of any case." His office says that any suggestion that he has changed his view is complete and utter rubbish.

IN A REPORT headed, Lawyers say restricted right to jury trial will hit blacks hardest [the headline changed for some editions], page 13, November 21, we said, "Some 22,000 defendants a year charged with either-way offences elect trial by jury. Statistics show that more than 70 per cent subsequently plead guilty and are therefore never tried." Professor Lee Bridges, director of the Legal Research Institute, School of Law, the University of Warwick, points out that this often quoted statistic is not supported by the study on which it purports to be based. We now accept that. Professor Bridges suggests that the only accurate statement that might be drawn from the research would be something like the following: "Of those who elect to be tried in the crown court and are eventually convicted, 75 per cent plead guilty and 25 per cent are found guilty following trial. But we do not know what proportion of those who elect crown court continue to contest their cases and are found guilty, or otherwise have the cases against them discharged."

THERE were some errors in our references to the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act (1860), page 2, December 1. The trial to which we referred, concerning the Brighton church demonstration case, was in 1966, not 1967; eight of the demonstrators were convicted (of indecent behaviour); one of two imprisoned demonstrators interrupted not Harold Wilson but George Brown. It was not the last conviction under the Act. A reader calls from Istanbul to say that he was fined under the Act in 1983 after delivering an impromptu sermon at St Paul's Cathedral in London, during the Stop the City demonstrations, protesting at the exploitation of underdeveloped nations.

IN OUR list, Eighty reasons to forget the eighties, pages 16 and 17, Friday Review, December 4, we twice gave the name of Patsy Kensit's band as Ace Wonder. It should have been Eighth Wonder.

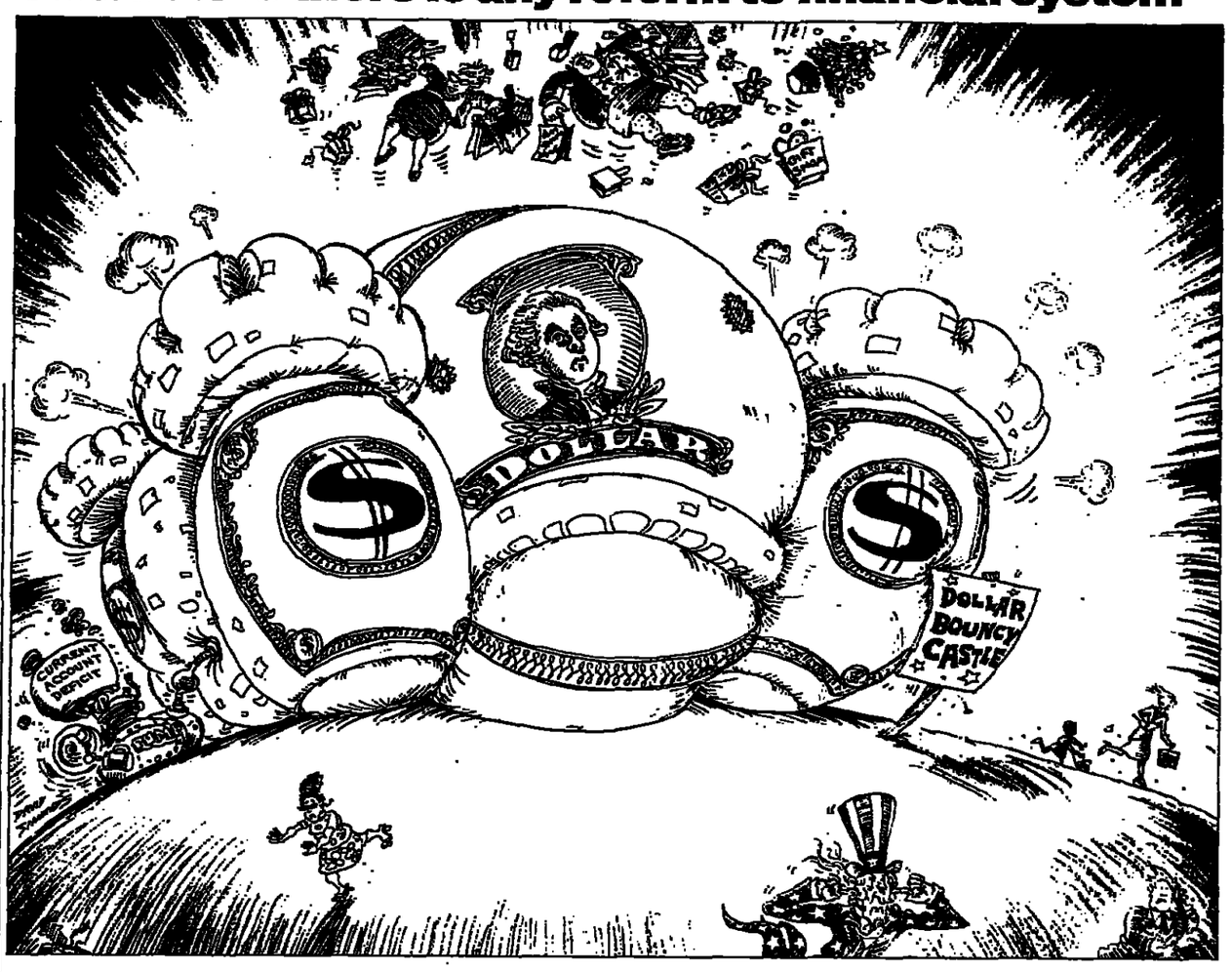
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هكذا من الأصل

The crisis may have to visit America before there is any reform to financial system

The buck pops here





Larry Elliott

IF THE 1970s were the decade of stagflation and the 1980s the decade of debt, the 1990s have been the decade of currency crises. Starting with the pound's ejection from the European exchange rate mechanism in September 1992, there have been regular and increasingly virulent bouts of currency turbulence.

The presumption is that Brazil will be next on the list, and with the Cardoso government gripped in the pincers of economic contraction and an over-valued exchange rate, only the foolish would bet against it. Even now, the predators are gathering.

Important though it is, Brazil may prove to be something of a sideshow, because there is an even bigger danger lurking out there — the risk of a collapse in the US dollar. As yet, this possibility has yet to embed itself in the psyche of the global markets, and indeed may sound a bit counter-intuitive given that American unemployment is still falling.

This complacency may soon be punctured, and indeed there were the first signs last week that the suckers' rally of the past two months has come to an end. The lay-offs at Boeing brought home an uncomfortable truth, namely that the earnings growth which the stock market bulls use to justify rocketing share prices simply are not coming through. In the end, of course, what's happening to earnings and profits cannot be divorced from stock market performance. Profits drive investment and employment, and as such are the key component of growth.

So what is happening to profits in America's "miracle economy"? Far from rising exponentially, they have been dropping for the past year and are now declining at an annual rate of 6 per cent. Margins are being squeezed by overcapacity, rising employment costs and a deceleration in productivity growth.

As Ian Harwood of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson put it at his firm's seminar last week: "The Q3 year-on-year profits decline is the the first since the early 1990s recession and — if history is any guide — will produce a sharp economic slowdown, especially with the record corporate financing gap. Already capital expenditure plans are being cut, lay-offs are rising and new hiring slowing."

Mr Harwood's colleague, Albert Edwards, expanded on this theme. His view is that, price stability having been attained, global markets will have to get used to an "Ice Age" in which equity prices will be driven entirely by earnings.

"In the US, analysts have become seriously deluded and need help. In the Ice Age, double-digit earnings expansion will be rare at the market level — an occasional early-cycle phenomenon. Double digit earnings growth will become like Yeti. They will be occasionally glimpsed and then vanish."

The absurd euphoria surrounding US technology stocks is a classic example of Wall Street's advanced state of denial. According to the analysts who continually badger American citizens to invest in mutual funds, the sky's the limit for these go-go stocks. When these so-called experts sat down to compile their forecasts for 1998 in October 1997 they were in no doubt. Earnings per share would rise by a whopping 32.2 per cent, fully justifying booming share prices.

By February, they were a bit more cautious, but not much. EPS growth was put at 23.2 per cent, a more than respectable performance, particularly in a time of low and falling inflation. In October, reality had intruded on this escapist fantasy. Earnings per share in the technology sector would not actually rise at all in 1998. In fact, EPS would drop by 2.4 per cent.

Any sane person might learn something from this and use the experience of what happened this year as a guide to what might be in store for the technology sector in 1999. Did this happen? Hardly. Whereas this February, analysts saw EPS growth of 26.6 per cent in 1999, by October they has pushed this up to 40 per cent. Such forecasts not only beggar belief, they verge on the criminally negligent.

"We believe the US economic and market conjuncture closely resembles the Asia economic catastrophe (formally known as miracle) back in 1996," said Mr Edwards. "Excesses in the US have built up which inevitably will be corrected. The cycle has yet to be abolished. When adjustment does occur, the dollar should be watched closely."

Far from being a "new paradigm," the US bears all the hallmarks of a Mexico or a Thailand, only on a frighteningly collosal scale. For a start, it is running a vast and expanding current account deficit, which is being funded by flows of foreign capital. This hot money is attracted by the rise in US asset prices, which in turn are helping to fund excessive consumption by both businesses and individuals.

At some point, this tail-chasing will stop. For the entire post-war period, America has had the benefit of sitting on the world's only reserve currency. In less than a month's time that will change with the birth of the euro, and it is a stone-cold certainty that there will be a rebalancing of portfolios by global investors. This is not especially good news for Europe, which has no need of an appreciating currency, but it could prove to be the trigger for a run on the dollar.

From the market's point of view, it could become a one-way bet. A cheaper dollar would make New York an even less attractive place to park hot money. With the American economy dependent on the stock market, there would be pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut rates. All the recent evidence is that its chairman, Alan Greenspan, would be rather quicker to slash rates than the European Central Bank chiefs.

What would be the policy implications of this? Obviously, in the short run, a dollar currency crisis would be utterly disastrous, since it would choke off European exports and do immeasurable damage to the prospects of a Japanese recovery. But in the longer term, the global crisis may have to arrive in America's backyard before anything serious is done to reform the world's financial system.

Britain is eager that the Group of Seven industrialised countries and the International Monetary Fund speed up efforts to push through changes to regulate better the activities of hedge funds, improve global regulation and make policies more accountable and transparent. But the stock market rally since the end of September has wrongly fostered the impression that the system is essentially sound.

Robert Skidelsky, the biographer of Keynes, said at a Social Market Foundation seminar recently that in the first era of globalisation, between 1880 and 1914, there were plenty of financial crises, but these were confined to the periphery of the world economy, principally Latin America. The mood changed when the developed world became gripped by economic collapse between the wars.

"Clearly it was the spread of financial instability from the second class to the first class powers which spurred the demand for capital controls. For the first time unlimited capital mobility posed a serious threat to the core countries of the world economy.

"The interesting question is whether our world resembles more closely the world of the 1920s and early 1930s which shaped Keynes's views, or the pre-1914 world when international capital mobility did not give rise to much trouble."

An interesting question indeed. If it really is a pre-1914 world out there, there are enough worrying signs to suggest it may be one last glorious Edwardian summer.

Indicators

TODAY — JP: Wholesale Prices (Nov)
GER: Industrial Production (Oct).
UK: Industrial Production (Oct).
TOMORROW — GER: Labour Market Report (Nov).
WEDNESDAY — US: Current Account Deficit (Q3).
THURSDAY — JP: Private Machinery Orders (Oct).
FR: Consumer Price Index (Nov)
UK: MPC Meeting Ends.
US: Jobless Claims (w/e 5 Dec).
FRIDAY — JP: Monetary Policy Meeting of the BoJ Policy Board.
US: Retail Sales (Nov).
US: Producer Prices (Nov).
EU: EU Summit.
Source: HSBC Markets

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.61	Germany 2.6915	Malaysia 6.33	Singapore 2.69
Austria 18.87	Greece 453.58	Malta 0.61	South Africa 9.35
Belgium 55.52	Hong Kong 12.55	Netherlands 3.022	Spain 228.23
Canada 2.489	India 72.80	New Zealand 3.09	Sweden 13.00
Cyprus 0.7972	Ireland 1.0755	Norway 12.00	Switzerland 2.19
Denmark 10.29	Israel 6.97	Portugal 273.60	Turkey 485,720
Finland 8.8580	Italy 2,679	Saudi Arabia 6.14	US 1.8205
France 8.9968			

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Labour can't really claim it has lost to the speculators

Debate
Jonathan Michie

THE NEW consensus is that the power of national governments is constrained by global economic forces. "Globalisation" presents academics with an expanding research agenda, funding possibilities and publication outlets — and politicians with the comforting message that while they are doing what they can, these days that cannot be expected to be too much.

The Guardian recently reported just such a "don't blame me" message from Tony Blair. There is little national governments such as his could now do, we were told, in the face of the globalisation of economic activities.

The same edition reported remarks from arch global speculator George Sorros to the effect that the instability of financial markets was threatening global capitalism itself, and that governments must therefore act.

What is the truth behind the hype? There is no doubt the scale of global capital flows and power of multinationals has risen over the last 20 years. But to depict this leaving national governments powerless is simply wrong. The history of the world economy over the last century has been of huge firms operating globally — with capital as well as commodities seeking the most profit. It has not been smooth progress, however.

First, multinationals and capital markets have not been independent of administrations. On the contrary, governments have continually been called on to act, politically and militarily, in pursuit of companies' interests — to protect ownership rights, break down unfair barriers, and so on.

Second, "globalisation" has often been a regionalisation around trading blocks such as the European Union and the North American Free Trade Agreement territory.

Thirdly, national governments themselves have been responsible for many of the acts which most directly circumvent their subsequent ability to act. So certainly, the their power has in many cases been reduced. But it has been part of a process in which national governments have been most definitely involved.

> Certainly, national governments' power has been reduced. But they have been involved in the process

Fourth, despite all that, national governments remain by far the most powerful legal, political and even economic force in today's global economy. If the governments of the US and European Union decided to do something, global players would have to accept it.

What does this imply for economic policy? In a pamphlet published today by the Full Employment Forum*, Michael Kitson and I argue that full employment is difficult to achieve — but that it was always the case. The real difference over the last 20 years has not been that the objective is now beyond the power of national governments but rather that it is an objective that has not been pursued. The important policy objectives have been low inflation and tax reductions.

But is policy now only achievable internationally? That is the excuse often used for inaction. It contrasts with the slogan from the Greens — "think global, act local". The answer is to "think global" and to act.

Action is required at international, national and local levels. It is important not to allow governments to use eloquent calls for international action to mask domestic inactivity. Or indeed, failure to really push through the necessary global action, such as imposing some order on today's global speculators — if only to save them from dragging the rest of us down with them in an orgy of debt default.

The fact that Spain and Ireland are the only EU countries with governments that are not social democratic or centre-left coalitions removes one of the main blocks to action.

America already has relatively low unemployment. Japan and the East Asian economies are acting to overcome the crisis brought on by financial deregulation, excessive short-term borrowing by private-sector firms and the instability endemic to global capitalism — which, combined with deregulation and debt spelled disaster.

Only the EU is obsessed with inflation. But there are welcome signs. Europeans have begun refocusing on growth, development and employment.

The fact that we are *not* in an inflationary era is beginning to dawn on them.

Labour should grasp the opportunity. The Bank of England should at least be told to targetgrowth and employment, not just inflation.

Talk about "flexibility" should be replaced with a commitment to training and functional flexibility. The hire and fire mentality passing for flexibility should be rejected.

Welfare to work should be combined with job-creation for those coming off benefits, rather than the current situation, in which they take someone else's job or are forced out of the picture entirely.

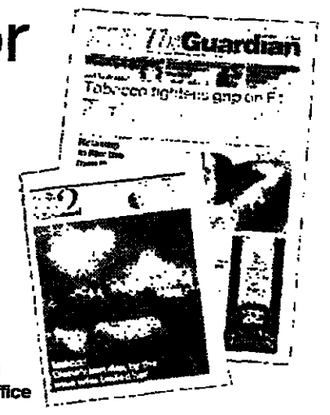
Globalisation would not prevent Labour pursuing this sort of active policy agenda. Along with the US and Japan, a similar commitment to active policy intervention could be pursued globally.

Jonathan Michie is Sainsbury professor of management at Birkbeck College.
**Globalisation, Unemployment & Government Policy, Michael Kitson and Jonathan Michie; Full Employment Forum: £3 from Pam Richards, 1 Station Road, Bath BA1 3DX*

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Strong spirit is going to Fed's head

Worm's eye
Dan Atkinson

IN JULY 1927, Benjamin Strong, governor of New York Federal Reserve Bank, convened a confidential meeting of bankers at the home of Ogden Mills, under-secretary to the US Treasury. Also present were Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, and Charles Rist, deputy head of the Bank of France. At issue was the need to maintain the boom of the 1920s. Strong had just slashed interest rates by half a point to 3 per cent. He told Rist: "I will give a little *coup de whiskey* to the stock market."

He certainly did that. The market surged ahead throughout 1928 and some of 1929.

By the time of the Wall Street Crash, Strong had died and was unable to defend what proved to be a reckless action. Almost none of Strong's additional liquidity found its way into productive investment. Instead, it provided a reserve tank of petrol for the last crazy mile of high-speed speculation.

That said, Strong was a hero for the brief period between the secret meeting and the crash. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

While wishing the current chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, the very best of health, it is hard not to draw the obvious parallel between Strong's little dram of the hard stuff and the similar tot of firewater supplied by barman Greenspan to what any magistrate would deem to be a seriously inebriated client, the US equities market.

Indeed, alarm bells are ringing already as to the bubble status of Wall Street. As with the Strong manoeuvre, the real economy would appear to be lagging far behind the rising soufflé of US share prices.

In one respect the parallels are even more worrying. At least then there was no real threat to the survival of the dollar as an international reserve currency. Quite the opposite. Once sterling came off gold in the early 1930s events led rapidly to the creation of a world currency system anchored to the dollar.

This time round, there are signs the dollar may be in its dotage as the undisputed medium of world trade. Not only is the euro a serious rival, but also increasingly sophisticated currency management techniques on the part of private institutions may be removing the need for any anchor currency.

America's pain-free deficit may be about to become acutely sorefull.

Tomorrow: Factories under more pressure

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FinanceGuardian

Hi-tech plant calls in receivers

Tony Hearth

A FLAGSHIP electronics company in South Wales which began producing computer chips less than six months ago is in trouble, raising fears of 500 job losses.

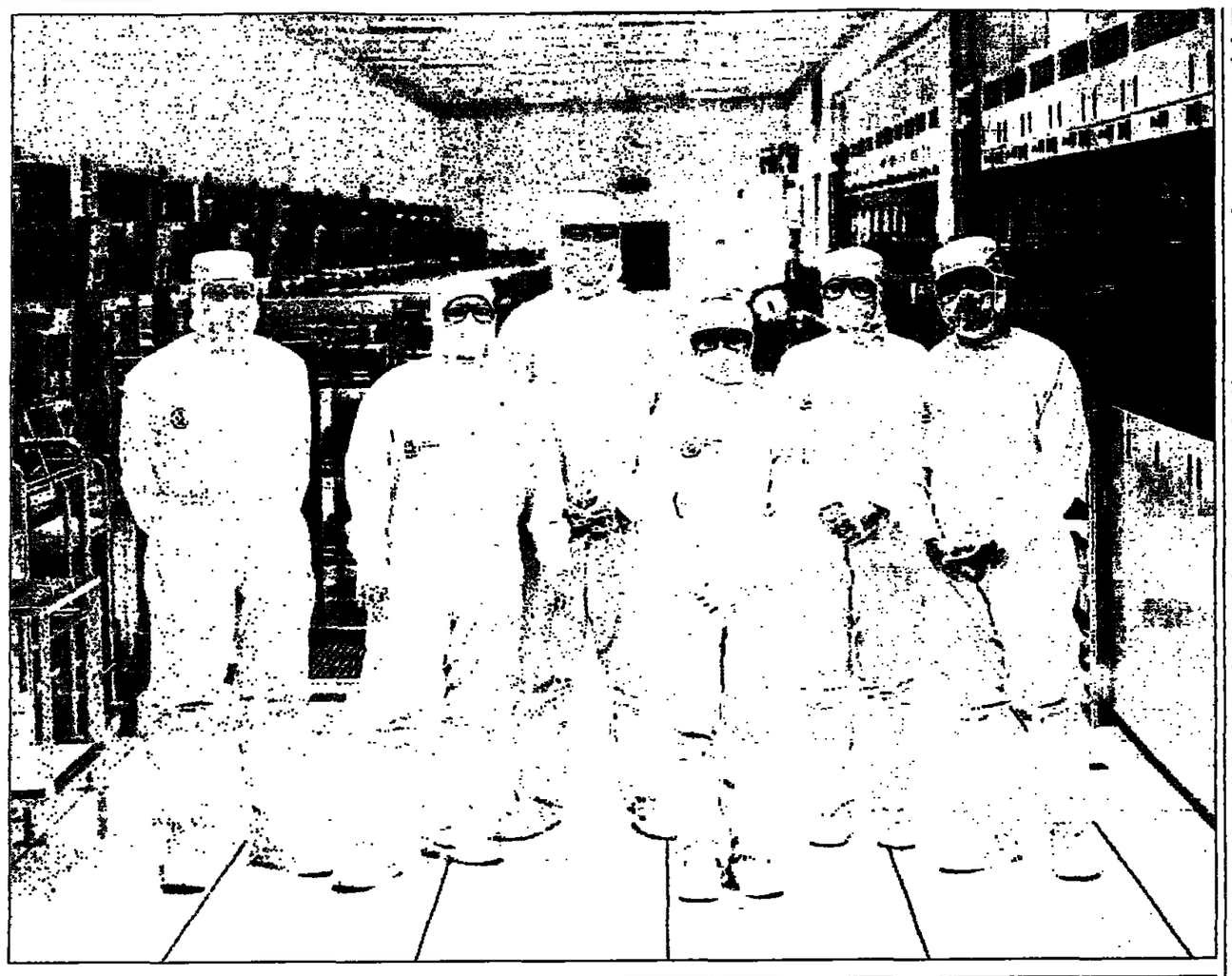
The £230 million plant (pictured) on the outskirts of Newport is run by WaferFab, a Chinese-owned enterprise. The worldwide slump in the market has led to PriceWaterhouseCoopers being called in to run the company in receivership with the aim of trying to sell the business as a going concern.

The progress of merger talks between Korean companies LG and Hyundai is being watched nervously in Wales. LG has invested £1.7 billion in two plants in Newport, promising a total of 6,100 jobs.

However, Hyundai's excess capacity in the semi-conductor market has caused a slowdown in the LG development.

WaferFab's problems add to fears for the future of hi-tech industries, which were hailed as a saviour following the demise of coal mining.

The Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, is being urged to intervene to keep WaferFab afloat. Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West, said yesterday: "I urge Mr Michael to ensure that the company emerges successfully from its present difficulties."



PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

Camelot is investigated

Roger Cowe

THE Office of Fair Trading is investigating Camelot after complaints that the National Lottery operator has used unfair tactics to squeeze out competitors to its Instants scratchcard.

Littlewoods, the pools operator which is the main competitor selling scratchcards in newsagents and supermarkets, has submitted a dossier to the OFT citing allegations of charity cards being dropped because of pressure from Camelot staff.

Jeremy Collis, managing director of Littlewoods Lotteries, said yesterday that there was evidence from around the country of retailers refusing to stock competitors' scratchcards because they were worried about losing their National Lottery business.

"We have assembled a dossier which we have submitted to the OFT relating to Camelot's business practices, which we believe are widespread," Mr Collis said.

The OFT inquiry comes as Camelot prepares its attempt to retain the lottery licence when it expires in 2001.

Littlewoods' complaint is supported by a number of charities who believe they have lost income through shopkeepers' refusal to sell charity-linked scratchcards. They include small, local charities as well as national organisations such as the Variety Club and the Roy Castle Cancer Foundation. Dominic Jenkins, chief executive of the Children's Hospice, in Wales, says his organisation is losing income because of "the unfair practices of Camelot".

He accuses the lottery operator of threatening shopkeepers with the loss of their Lottery terminal if they stock competitors' scratchcards. He said retailers were afraid of coming forward, because the lottery is crucial to their business.

Camelot is also attacked by Scott Barton, special projects manager for the Sheffield-based Pace organisation which supports children with cerebral palsy.

Mr Barton recounted various reasons why small shopkeepers would not stock his charity cards. One had been told that under no circumstances could rival products be sold. Another shopkeeper said Camelot had used the carrot of an on-line terminal to persuade the store to stop selling rivals' scratchcards.

Mr Barton said one woman in Sheffield had told him: "We can't sell these, it's against the law," adding after a pause, "Well, it's against Camelot's law and that's all that counts."

The evidence submitted to the OFT two weeks ago includes allegations that Camelot's tactics apply equally to the largest supermarket chains as to small newsagents. The country's largest food retailers are said to be wary of upsetting Camelot because they still have stores which do not have on-line terminals to sell lottery tickets.

The OFT has been told that the supermarkets believe they will not get terminals in these remaining stores if they upset Camelot. This is supported by a letter from Tesco's lottery buyer, Steven Livett, which states: "To directly take on Camelot with a rival game is certain to antagonise them and damage the working relationship we have built up with them. This would reduce our chances of being given terminals in our new stores."

Mr Collis said the lottery operator's monopolistic position would not be tolerated in any other product category. "I can't imagine a similar category with no competitive supplier", he said. "This is a £6 billion-a-year business but it is as if you couldn't buy any baked beans except Heinz."

The Littlewoods manager said the anti-competitive practices he had documented amounted to more than sales reps' over-enthusiasm.

Littlewoods has taken up the issue with Camelot, and received a letter last year from chief executive Tim Holley making it clear that retailers are entitled to stock rival products. Camelot would not comment yesterday, apart from confirming that the position had not changed since Mr Holley's letter.

Littlewoods has also complained to the lottery regulator, Oflot, which would not act without written evidence from retailers.

Rate cut essential, say bosses

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

BRITAIN's hard-pressed businesses will today seize on fresh gloom from both manufacturing and the high street to pressurise the Bank of England into a making a further half-point cut in interest rates.

In the wake of last week's Europe-wide cut in borrowing costs, most City analysts believe that the Bank of England's monetary policy committee will cut interest rates in the UK by 0.25 percentage points — which will be the third consecutive monthly reduction.

However, both the British Chambers of Commerce and the Confederation of British Industry believe that the combination of the increasing number of company failures, the weakness of factory orderbooks and the slump in consumer confidence are sufficient incentive to warrant a bolder move.

Figures published today by the business information group, *Dun & Bradstreet*, showed that the number of company collapses in Britain was up by 17.9 per cent between the third quarter of 1997 and the third quarter of this year.

Chris Humphries, the director general of the BCC, said: "The Bank should cut rates to the minimum consistent with hitting the inflation target. And there really is not a lot of inflation out there."

Mr Humphries added that the BCC expected base rates to be down to 5 per cent by the middle of next year, as the Bank of England sought to prevent the economy from plunging into recession.

The nine members of the MPC were given a full briefing on the latest economic data last Friday, and are aware that recent business surveys of both the service and manufacturing sectors have been pointing to a more marked slowdown than they were expecting a month ago.

In the City, dealers had predicted that the Bank to wait until the New Year before reducing rates again, but sentiment has changed over the last fortnight.

"The economy is clearly slowing much more quickly than the committee expected," said David Hillier of investment group Barclays Capital. "Real rates of interest are far too high. The committee needs to cut rates again".

Jonathan Loynes at HSBC said the most important piece of news had been last week's survey by purchasing managers showing that the downturn in manufacturing had filtered down to the service sector, hitherto the main engine for expansion.

Although the German-inspired move to lower European interest rates took the markets by surprise, the Dun & Bradstreet data reveal that the background to the monetary easing was a marked increase in company failures caused by lower growth in Europe's largest economy.

Business collapses in Germany were 5.2 per cent higher in the third quarter of this year than during the same period of 1997 — an indication of the impact of a rising exchange rate and the knock-on

ScottishPower poised for US deal

Chris Barrie

SCOTTISHPOWER is set to become one of the world's largest multi-utility companies this week when it announces, possibly as soon as this morning, that it is buying the US group Pacificorp for as much as $8 billion (£4.9 billion).

The deal was still subject of intense negotiation by executives last night, but sources close to the talks suggested that a successful outcome was within reach to create a new group that could offer electricity, gas, telecoms and water on both sides of the Atlantic.

The deal will mark ScottishPower's transformation from an electricity supplier into a fully fledged multinational. It would also offset the failure of the group's last two attempts to buy its way into the US energy business.

Although details of the transaction have yet to be finalised, the deal is effectively a takeover of the US utility by ScottishPower. The headquarters will be located in Scotland and ScottishPower executives are likely to land the key positions, with chief executive Ian Robinson set to take on the top operational role in the enlarged group.

Between them, Pacificorp and ScottishPower will supply 7 million customers. The UK energy company already owns electricity supplier Manweb and water company Southern Water. Its subsidiary, Scottish Telecom, recently bought Internet firm Demon.

ScottishPower is worth £8 billion, against Pacificorp's £3.75 billion tag of Friday night. The UK company is likely to pay for the acquisition by issuing American depository receipts to the US firm's shareholders, leaving them with just under 40 per cent of the enlarged group.

ScottishPower is likely to want to sell off some of Pacificorp's assets and will also try to cut costs across the group.

The most significant hurdles facing the takeover are likely to be the US regulators. Pacificorp operates in seven US states.

Investors await bankers' signal

This week

Laurie Laird

INVESTORS will be on the edge of their seats early in the week, awaiting the outcome of the deliberations of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee; the group is expected to announce its verdict on interest rates at midday Thursday and most analysts are looking for another reduction.

Further clues as to the health of the consumer are also on the schedule. The British Retail Consortium releases its November sales survey tomorrow and it is expected to make grim reading after the CBI reported widespread retail weakness last week.

Two companies are due to learn their fate at shareholder meetings. On Tuesday, shareholders in Marston Thompson will vote on the company's proposal to sell its tenanted pubs. Should the motion fail, the brewer will have trouble fighting off the bid by rival Wolverhampton & Dudley.

On Wednesday, shareholders in Lonrho Africa, spun off from the Lonrho conglomerate in August, will vote on board changes. Minority shareholder Blakeney Management wants to replace three directors.

TODAY — Interims: Acal, Asquey, British Land, Carlco Engineering, Colombus Group, Faupel Trading, Jarvis, Norbain, Powderject Pharmaceuticals, Spring, Tops Estates, Warthington. Finals: Phytopharm, Premier Asset Management, Treasi.

TOMORROW — Interims: Berkeley, Bousted, BSS, BTP, Drew Scientific, Fayrewood, Jasmin, London Clubs, Prism Rail, Scottish & Newcastle, VHE. Third Quarter: Brewin Dolphin, LucasVarity. Finals: Hozelock, Landround, Ultraframe.

WEDNESDAY — Interims: Advat, Courts, Scottish Hydro Electric, David S Smith, Eliza Tinsley. Finals: Apollo Metals, Firth Rixson, Greenalls, Heals, Matrolene, Sage, SHL, Victrex.

THURSDAY — Interims: HP Bulmer, Fine Art Developments, First Technology, Hadleigh, Hi-Tec Sports, Limit, Racal, Reliance Security, Samuel Heath, Sibir Energy, Stagecoach, Harvey Nichols. Finals: Brooke Industrial, Compass, Countryside Properties, Daily Mail, Howis.

FRIDAY — Interims: Atlantic Telecom, John Brown, Proteus. Finals: Bradstock, Eldridge Pope, CA Sportil, Warner Estate, Windsor.

Mortgage lenders paint rosy picture

Liz Stuart

PREVIOUS economic slowdowns spawned panic buying, high interest rates and boom-bust conditions in the housing market. But not this time, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

The CML, which represents banks and building societies, admits in its annual forecasts, published today, that the housing market will be dampened in 1999 by economic uncertainty but argues there are positive signs, including the prospect of lower interest rates.

The CML predicts rates will fall to 5.5 per cent by the end of 1999 and to 5 per cent by the end of 2000. Such a fall would mean the average mortgage-holder owing £60,000 would pay around £50 a month less this time next year.

A CML spokeswoman added that the house-buying public was now more cautious, given the "painful lessons learned from the protracted recession of the early nineties, labour market flexibility and the emergence of a low-inflation environment".

Although house price inflation is predicted to slow — Halifax says prices will increase by 4 per cent in 1999 and 3 per cent in 2000, while the Nationwide puts the figures at 2.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively — it will broadly track retail price inflation.

Lower base rates and a fall in the number of people buying homes should lead to strong competition between lenders, resulting in aggressively discounted products and even "remortgage wars". Lower interest rates should result in fewer repossessions, but the CML stresses the importance of mortgage insurance at a time of employment insecurity.

The CML predicts that the number of house sales will fall from about 1.38 million this year to 1.3 million in 1999 and 1.25 million in 2000.

CBI pleads for paler green law

Roger Cowe

THE Confederation of British Industry today launches an attack on environmental legislation in a report which calls on the government to listen to industry and concentrate pollution control on the biggest risk areas.

The CBI says environmental laws have been too prescriptive, setting prohibitions and requirements on business without any consideration of the risks involved.

Jeremy Western, chairman of the CBI's environment protection panel, said the current approach to legislation does not take into account the cost of regulation and the competitiveness of industry.

"Business feels that a shift towards risk-based assessment would be a move towards better regulation, getting the right results without compromising competitiveness", said Mr Western, who is the health, safety and environment director for the nuclear power company British Energy. Mr Western said he hoped the government would listen to the pleas of business and change its approach to environmental legislation.

The industry body argues that health and safety laws provide a better model than the existing approach to green legislation. They set broad requirements which require companies to assess risks and take action on the most serious issues.

On the other hand, environmental laws have resulted in what the CBI describes as "a constant flow of prescriptive regulations". It says this imposes expenditure which would be spent more efficiently if companies could concentrate on high-risk areas.

In compiling the report* the CBI consulted its members. They said a risk-based approach would be more complex but 70 per cent said this would be outweighed by the benefits.

*Worth the risk — Improving Environmental Legislation

Notebook

Vicarious UK may be a euro runner



Victor Keegan

WELL, they finally did it. Last week the 11 candidates for monetary union did what they should have done years ago. They reduced interest rates on a co-ordinated basis. Had they done it when they should, they would not now be entering monetary union with 10 per cent unemployment amid fears not of inflation but — much worse — of deflation, when prices start falling rather than rising slowly. Maybe they seem to need to be monetary union members to force them to behave as they should outside it.

The 0.3-point rates cut is big by European standards: in percentage terms it rivals the recent British cuts. It was led by the central banks of France and Germany as a last request before starting the life sentence of monetary union next month. But they would not have done it without the blessing of new European Central Bank.

Yet the ECB until recently was so determined to flaunt its political independence that it was expected by most observers to raise, not lower interest rates as a warning that budget deficits must be brought below the Maastricht ceiling of 3 per cent.

What changed their minds? The central bankers may not have been directly influenced by politicians — they always claim they are not. But they *do* read the papers. They found that the world around them had changed. The EMU system, designed to impose Germanic counter-inflationary disciplines on a permissive European culture, suddenly had a big dissenter: Germany itself. Faced with a new, left-leaning Euroland more worried about today's problem of unemployment than yesterday's of inflation, the bankers bit the bullet.

But does it make Euroland a better place for Britain? Not at all. It will be years before we know whether the claimed benefits of monetary union — single currency, no transaction costs, lower rates — outweigh the disadvantages, that is when higher rates to curb overheating in, say, France and Italy cause a loss of jobs in Britain or Spain, which might be at different stages in their economic cycles.

EUROPE starts monetary union with the perverse advantage of high unemployment. Thus, the normal and much-postponed, cyclical revival of Euroland will make it look as if the single currency is working when it has not even left the starting stalls. If monetary union had started at the top of the business cycle, with unemployment about to rise, it would have been a different story.

The first test of EMU will be when we see whether it copes with the next recession without causing an economic or political crisis in some member countries.

Britain should sit on the sidelines as a very active spectator. The Government should encourage use of the euro as much as possible between now and 2002, when the first notes and coins start circulating. For instance, it should encourage industry to prepare by ensuring that cash dispensers and other equipment are compatible with the euro.

Most important, the Government should let the euro circulate in the UK as a parallel currency during the period when it is establishing a track record for itself in Europe.

This will enable those who want to adopt the euro on a personal basis — including me — to do so without risking the economic future of the whole country. The more the euro circulates in Britain the more it will act as a discipline against monetary or fiscal laxness by the Chancellor — not that that is in prospect. If savers feel the pound is under threat they can shift more of their savings to euro accounts, and vice-versa.

If Britain operated a dual currency for a while it would give us an each-way bet on the success of the euro while enabling those who want to participate to do so. Adoption of the single currency would be a decision made by individuals rather than government.

It will not, of course, be the same as monetary union for those who participate, but it would be a reasonable short-term compromise. Above all, it would give Britain a euro-friendly stance during a period when the EMU experiment is being tested — possibly to destruction. There is a big risk that monetary union will not succeed, even for the first wave of 11 joining at the end of the month. It is not like the United States, where monetary union is supported by budgetary transfers, flexible inter-state labour markets and a single language.

BUT even if EMU succeeds for its own members, there is a bigger risk that it will not succeed for Britain, with her different traditions. We have a business cycle that is running three to four years ahead of Europe, an island mentality, an oil-influenced currency — temporarily cowed by low oil prices and an underbelly of euroscepticism which could be part of the political scene for years to come.

If Britain joined now, and years later found that the ECB was putting interest rates up while the UK was still in recession — that is, needing lower interest rates — there would be widespread revulsion against the whole European ideal. Indeed, the Conservatives would blame Europe for every bit of bad news, including corporate redundancies.

There are, of course, some who believe the political attractions of EMU are so strong that they outweigh the risk of unnecessary British recessions. That could be a very risky decision to take.

But let it never be forgotten that there is a very strong *pro*-European argument for delaying entry. The argument is based on wanting a permanent union, not one that breaks up as soon as rough winds start blowing. Its force remains undiminished by time. Meanwhile, let the single currency roll. You do not have to be *in* it to be *of* it.

هكذا من الأصل

PARTING SHOT



Monk business . . . runners in the 13th Leeds Abbey Dash make their way past Kirkstall Abbey yesterday during the 10km race through the streets of the Yorkshire capital. A record 2,000 runners took part, raising around £15,000 for Help The Aged

Photograph by Tim Smith

A defeat you could watch over and over

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

I REMEMBER exactly where I was on the night Argentina knocked England out of the World Cup. I was at home watching the television. Not a top-hole revelation, I agree, but since everybody else has given us the benefit of their reminiscences this week, from Gary Neville to Mick Jagger, I thought you ought to know.

I missed most of the BBC's languid, lyrical look back at the Night The World Ended, starring Sir Desmond Lynam — who is obviously just filling in time until he's installed as the new Poet Laureate — but caught ITV's bright and breezy scissors-and-paste job the night before, and must admit to revelling in it, as is an Englishman's sacred duty.

Even more cataclysmic than a nuclear holocaust, but you rely on Trevor to keep a sense of proportion

How we love a glorious, backs-to-the-wall defeat. Two programmes on consecutive nights about the same failure. One programme, as Oscar Wilde almost said, might be considered nostalgia, two begins to look like masochism. But, hey, for those of us too young to remember the war, this was our Dunkirk.

The ITV programme was, I suspect, a spoiling operation inspired by the BBC's cheek in producing their documentary when more than 26 million people — the channel's biggest audience ever — spent the night with ITV. There were, nevertheless, some worthwhile contributions.

Trevor McDonald, for instance, who was preparing for News at Ten when David Batty missed his penalty, was spot on in describing the eerie, empty post-match streets and the cloud of gloom that descended on the nation as how you might imagine the aftermath of a nuclear holocaust. More cataclysmic than that, I should have said, but you rely on respected newsmen to keep a sense of proportion.

That was the last thing you were looking for from the commentator Brian Moore. "You're allowed a good bellow on a night like that," said Moore, and as the match footage demonstrated, Moore fully exploited his licence. I hadn't realised how much I missed Moore. The conventional wisdom at the time was that his back legs were failing coming into the back strait, but listening once more to the distinctive operatic swoops of his voice tightening the screws at moments of high drama, it was clear that he was pretty well matchless on the big occasions. I hope we shall still hear him from time to time.

"Was there ever a more glorious exit from the World Cup?" Moore asked. "This night will be remembered for many years to come." Too right. I can't wait for the first anniversary programmes.

If you feel unable to wait, though, there is another film tomorrow night dealing with the same events. This one, however, is more John Grierson than John Motson, carrying echoes of the great British documentaries of the 1930s depicting working-class life.

Come On England, directed by Richard Alwyn, is the story of Thomas Evans, an 11-year-old from a deprived area of Liverpool. Thomas wants to be a professional footballer when he grows up, like Steve McManaman, who went to the same West Everton school. If he can't be a footballer, he'll settle for a boxer or a gangster. Without labouring the point, the film suggests how limited Thomas's options are.

For a brief time, though, Thomas and his friends' passionate involvement in England's World Cup adventure lifts the shadow of poverty from their lives. When the adventure ends on that night in St Etienne and Thomas's mother, who looks as defeated as David Batty, says, grim-faced, to her shattered son: "Right. Undressed and bed," Trevor McDonald's nuclear holocaust metaphor seems sadly inadequate.

Come on England is a beautiful film, not only about the power of football, but also about the realities of life in 1998 in large parts of Britain. Try and watch it.

Back in the world of the bellow, the most thrilling sport of the week by some distance was England's victory over South Africa at Twickenham. Sky Sports did a bang-up job on this pulsating match.

Their commentary team of Stuart Barnes and Miles Harrison know the game backwards and can usually be relied on to say what needs to be said. While Barnes has a tendency to bellow indiscriminately, Harrison has Moore's instinct for when to hit full bellow, and is developing into one of the best commentators on any sport on any channel.

When the game is as good as this one, and the achievement as great as England's, Sky's hyperbolic tone, which can be somewhat irritating for a Monday night Derby-Wimbledon match, seems entirely appropriate. What a pity, though, South Africa couldn't snatch victory with their last-minute breakaway. If they had, we could still be savouring the glorious defeat in 10 years' time.

RUGBY UNION

WORLD CUP
European Qualifying Zone
Pool 3
Scotland 85 Spain 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	170	14	6
Spain	2	1	0	1	24	102	4
Portugal	2	0	0	2	26	106	2

INTERNATIONAL MATCH
England 13 South Africa 7

U-21 INTERNATIONAL
England 32 South Africa 10

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER CUP
First round, second leg
Rotherham 19 Leeds 16 (agg: 32-37)
Wakefield 24 Bristol 35 (41-101)
Waterloo 45 Fylde 20 (agg: 79-35)
Exeter 16 Worcester 8 (agg: 47-25)
Postponed: Bedford v Coventry; Leicester v Rugby; London Welsh v Richmond; Moseley v Northampton; Orrell v Sale.

TENNENT'S VELVET CUP
Fourth round
Langholm 20 Linlithgow 15

TENNENT'S VELVET SHIELD
First round
Trinity Acads 7 Annan 21
Waysiders/D'pelie 8 Selkirk 58

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE
One
Camberley 42 Liv St Helens 7
Henley 26 Birmingham/Sol 13
Lydney 33 Reading 17
Manchester 15 Wharfedale 3
Nottingham 22 Harrogate 7
Otley 20 Newbury 11
Postponed: Morley v Rosslyn Park

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	12	11	0	1	369	184	22
Henley	12	10	0	2	258	138	20
Otley	12	9	0	3	234	176	18
Lydney	12	7	0	5	258	233	14
Rosslyn Park	11	6	0	5	246	189	12
Reading	12	6	0	6	272	246	12
Camberley	12	6	0	6	246	316	12
Nottingham	12	5	0	7	240	229	10
Birmingham/S	12	5	0	7	232	225	10
Newbury	12	5	0	7	194	199	10
Wharfedale	12	4	0	8	184	218	8
Harrogate	12	4	0	8	138	203	8
Morley	11	4	0	7	184	261	8
Liv St Helens	12	1	0	11	143	376	2

Two: North
Hinckley 24 Nuneaton 24
Kendal 30 Aspatria 23
Lichfield 17 Walsall 28
Preston GH 9 New Brighton 15
Sandal 38 Sheffield 5
Sedgley Pk 70 Winnington Pk 17
Whitchurch 13 Stourbridge 29

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston GH	11	10	0	1	385	164	20
New Brighton	11	9	0	2	304	92	18
Stourbridge	11	9	0	2	312	191	18
Sheffield	11	7	0	4	245	176	14
Kendal	11	6	0	5	275	169	12
Aspatria	11	6	0	5	302	248	12
Nuneaton	11	5	2	4	236	256	12
Sedgley Pk	11	5	1	5	299	235	11
Sandal	11	5	0	6	266	260	10
Whitchurch	11	4	1	6	163	246	9
Walsall	11	4	1	6	238	323	9
Hinckley	11	2	1	8	181	298	5
Lichfield	11	1	0	10	132	367	2
Winnington Pk	11	1	0	10	117	412	2

Two: South
Bridgwater 28 Clifton 10
Havant 17 Bracknell 30
Norwich 6 N Walsham 15
Redruth 24 Plymouth 8
Tabard 13 Barking 22
Weston-S-Mare 32 Cheltenham 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esher	11	10	0	1	394	128	20
Barking	11	9	0	2	242	126	18
Bracknell	11	9	0	2	229	154	18
N Walsham	11	8	0	3	227	143	16
Norwich	11	7	0	4	184	140	14
Met Police	11	7	0	4	215	172	14
Tabard	11	6	0	5	191	170	12
Weston-S-Mare	11	5	1	5	180	215	11
Plymouth	11	3	1	7	185	245	7
Clifton	11	3	0	8	170	210	6
Bridgwater	11	2	1	8	181	286	5
Redruth	11	2	1	8	156	267	5
Cheltenham	11	2	0	9	144	278	4
Havant	11	2	0	9	131	316	4

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP
First Division: Postponed: Boroughmuir v Currie; Stirling Co v W of Scotland; Watsonians v Glasgow Hawks.
Second Division: Postponed: Dundee HSFP v Kirkcaldy; Kilmarnock v Selkirk.
Third Division
Glasgow S 19 Peebles 20
Postponed: Glenrothes v Stewarts Mel FP; Gordonians v Grangemouth.

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE
Premier Division
Bridgend 23 Ebbw Vale 13
Caerphilly 33 Neath 32
Llanelli 24 Pontypridd 16
Newport 36 Aberavon 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Llanelli	8	6	0	2	291	158	25
Pontypridd	8	6	0	2	299	140	24
Ebbw Vale	8	6	0	2	212	162	21
Caerphilly	9	4	1	4	212	258	14
Neath	7	3	0	4	178	172	12
Bridgend	7	3	1	3	175	184	12
Newport	7	2	0	5	178	240	11
Aberavon	8	0	0	8	122	355	1

First Division
Blackwood 5 Bonymaen 8
Dunvant 64 Abertillery 3
Llandovery 18 Merthyr 14
Pontypool 22 Tondu 30
Rumney 15 Cross Keys 45
S Wales Police 5 UWIC 8
Treorchy 33 Newbridge 30
Postponed: Maesteg v Tredegar

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dunvant	13	11	0	2	458	219	44
Bonymaen	14	10	1	3	339	198	39
Pontypool	14	11	0	3	349	238	37
Cross Keys	13	10	0	3	340	197	34
Llandovery	14	9	1	4	390	280	31
Merthyr	14	8	1	5	272	248	28
Treorchy	13	7	0	6	293	223	26
Rumney	13	6	0	7	254	313	24
Newbridge	14	6	0	8	357	328	23
Abertillery	13	6	1	6	255	271	23
Tredegar	14	4	1	9	264	334	16
UWIC	14	4	1	9	279	366	15
Blackwood	13	3	1	9	235	259	15
Tondu	13	4	0	9	212	335	13
S Wales Police	13	3	1	9	199	337	10
Maesteg	12	1	0	11	126	489	3

Second Division
Abercynon 44 Llantrisant 10
Mountain Ash 20 Tenby Utd 7
Narberth 16 Ystradgynlais 15
Pyle 3 Llanharan 61
St Peters 26 Oakdale 23
Whitland 55 Kenfig Hill 0
Wrexham 16 Rhymney 25

ANGLO-WELSH FRIENDLY
Swansea 31 Cardiff 15

AIB LEAGUE
First Division
Ballymena 23 Shannon 3
Blackrock Coll 32 Terenure 16
Buccaneers 21 Galwegians 14
Garryowen 22 Clontarf 15
Lansdowne 24 Cork Cons 17
Young Munster 15 St Marys 31

Second Division
Bective Rngrs 19 Portadown 17
Dungannon 30 Greystones 6
Old Belvedere 30 Old Wesley 3
Old Crescent 34 Derry 20
Skerries 18 Dolphin 15
Sunday's Well 19 Ballynahinch 3
UCC 8 Malone 8

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP
First Round
Barrow Island 24 Cardiff Univ 4
Dewsbury Moor 66 Ellenborough 40
Dudley Hill 66 Leeds Univ 0
Eastmoor 24 Moldgreen 34
Eccles 78 Garibaldi 10
Featherstone L 34 Queensbury 26
Hull Dockers 23 Park Amateurs 6
Ideal Isberg 39 Millom 4
Keighley Alb 6 Dodworth 42
Leigh East 12 Haydock 18
London Skolars 16 Thatto Heath 4
Middleton 12 Wigan St Judes 15
New Earswick 14 Townville 16
Norland 28 Milford 22
Oulton 42 York Acorn 8
Queens 20 Redhill 18
Shaw Cross 12 Featherstone MW 16
Wigan Rose Br 23 Blackbrook 15
Siddal 90 Northside 10
Postponed: Clayton v Normanton; Gateshead v Crosfields; Ovenden v East Leeds; Rochdale Mayfield v Leeds Met Univ; Scottish Border v Wath Brow.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE
Premier Division
Askam 24 Egremont 27
Beverley E Hull 22 Walney Central 26
Heworth 12 Leigh MR 28
Saddleworth 26 Thornhill 16
Skirlaugh 28 Castleford LL 10
Wigan St Patricks 2 West Hull 14
Woolston 8 Oldham St Annes 30

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skirlaugh	16	13	1	2	433	160	27
Oldham St An	15	12	1	3	391	132	25
West Hull	13	11	0	2	330	137	22
Saddleworth	15	9	0	6	211	191	18
Walney Central	15	9	0	6	238	243	18
Egremont	15	8	0	7	330	284	16
Castleford LL	15	7	1	7	320	284	15
Thornhill	16	7	1	8	258	324	15
Woolston	14	7	0	7	247	241	14
Leigh MR	15	6	0	9	321	300	12
Askam	15	6	0	9	295	332	12
Heworth	16	5	0	11	177	333	10
Wigan St Pat	14	3	0	11	146	308	6
Bev E Hull	15	0	0	15	133	562	0

GOLF

MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE
(Sun City, SA): **Final scores:**

273
N Price (Zim) 67 68 72 66
T Woods (US) 72 66 67 68
(Price won at 5th extra hole of sudden-death play-off)
274
J Leonard (US) 69 68 68 69
275
M O'Meara (US) 69 67 72 68
276
L Westwood (GB) 72 65 66 73
280
E Els (SA) 70 69 70 71
280
B Langer (Ger) 69 70 74 67
281
J Parnevik (Swe) 74 70 71 66
282
J Furyk (US) 75 71 72 64
284
D Duval (US) 72 73 71 68
284
C Montgomerie (GB) 71 74 70 69
285
T Watson (US) 72 70 73 70

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Royal Adelaide): **Final scores (Aus unless stated):**

288
G Chalmers 71 73 74 70
289
S Appleby 69 76 72 72
P Senior 70 73 76 70
291
N Faldo (GB) 77 69 72 73
R Allenby 72 73 75 71
292
R Pampling 71 71 77 73
293
P O'Malley 75 74 72 72
W Riley 73 74 75 71
294
S Scobie (NZ) 70 75 73 76
R Davis 72 73 75 74
295
W Grady 75 75 76 69
P Tataurangi (NZ) 75 75 75 70
C Parry 75 73 76 71
B King 74 78 72 71
B Green 73 76 73 73
S Webster (GB) 77 74 71 73
296
C Franco (Par) 75 74 76 71
F Couples (US) 76 76 75 69
G Turner (NZ) 75 73 74 74
Also: 299
G Norman 70 82 72 75
300
F Nobilo (NZ) 73 76 78 73
B Mayfair (US) 74 75 77 73
306
J Huston (US) 78 76 81 74

NIPPON SERIES JT CUP (Inagi, Japan): **Leading final round scores (Japanese unless stated):**

275
K Miyamoto 64 67 75 69
M Jumbo Ozaki 69 70 69 68
(Miyamoto won at fourth play-off hole)
276
S Katayama 70 67 71 68
279
E Herrera (Col) 71 71 70 67
K Hosokawa 72 66 71 70
280
N Joe Ozaki 72 69 70 69
T Taniguchi 70 67 74 69
S Maruyama 74 68 68 70
281
F Minoza (Phil) 69 71 72 69
B Watts (US) 70 67 69 75
282
T Hamilton (US) 74 65 74 69
283
H Meshiai 71 72 70 70
284
N Sato 68 68 77 71
M Kuramoto 70 67 71 76
285
K Kuwabara 70 73 71 71
287
K Yokoo 71 70 74 72
H Tanaka 71 69 73 74
T Izawa 69 68 76 74
D Chand (Fiji) 73 70 70 74
288
B Jobe (US) 76 71 73 68
K Fukabori 74 70 72 72
M Ozaki 73 69 74 72
Y Mizumaki 73 65 72 78
290
M Kawamura 72 75 71 72
K Kuboya 70 71 74 75

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP (Hong Kong): **Final scores:**

263
K Wook-Soon (S Kor) 66 65 66 66
266
Hsieh Chin sheng (Tai) 70 64 67 65
268
E Rustand (US) 70 69 67 62
269
B Rosengkit (Thai) 70 66 66 67
270
Zhang Lianwei (China) 68 68 66 68
E Meeks (US) 71 65 69 65
271
Lai Hung Jin (Tai) 73 68 68 62
C Espino (Mex) 68 66 69 68
272
Chang Tse peng (Tai) 66 71 68 67
S Micheel (US) 69 67 71 65
Choi Kwang Ju (S Kor) 74 67 65 66

JC PENNEY CLASSIC (Palm Harbor, Fla): **Third round scores:**

190
R Hetherington/R Mediate 63 65 62
192
C Johnson/S Lowery 64 63 65
193
M Mallon/S Pate 61 66 66
194
D Eggeling/F Zoeller 64 66 64
C Hjertstedt/C Perry 63 65 66
195
M Redman/S Kendall 66 67 62
K Tschetter/S Jones 64 63 68
196
H Alfredsson/B Andrade 65 67 64
T Hanson/D Barron 62 70 64
C Matthew/D Foreman 63 68 65
B Daniel/D Martin 63 67 66
197
D Pepper/J Sluman 67 65 65
198
P Hurst/S McCarron 66 68 64
K Albers/JP Hayes 66 69 63
Se Ri Pak/D Frost 66 67 65
V Odegard/J Carter 62 69 67
199
D Andrews/M Hulbert 68 66 65
D Ammaccapane/O Uresti 65 69 65
P Sinn/E Booker 67 66 66
D Dormann/P Stankowski 66 67 66
200
L Davies/J Daly 64 71 65
C McCurdy/R Cochran 61 72 67
D Coe/J D Hart 66 66 68
E Klein/S Cink 69 69 62
201
T Barrett/F Funk 66 69 66
M Estill/T Purtzer Jr 67 67 67
J Lidback/E Aubrey 65 71 65
R Jones/R Gamez 67 68 66
M Hjorth/S Gump 67 69 65
C Sorenstam/M Gronberg 66 67 68
L Kane/M Weir 69 68 64
202
M McNamara/O Day 69 68 65
M Figueras Dotti/B Bryant 65 70 67
203
C Walker/M Bradley 68 67 68
J Inkster/T Purtzer 66 69 68
J Pitcock/B Glasson 69 68 66
J Moodie/S Flesch 65 72 66
J Gallagher Smith/D Toms 69 70 64
W Ward/D Ogrin 66 73 64
204
S Redman/T Tryba 63 72 69
C Figg Currier/M Brooks 69 67 68
A Fruhwirth/C Rose 65 68 71
H Dobson/T Herron 67 69 68
K Saiki/D Paulson 67 71 66
206
C Johnston Forbes/W Wood 68 69 69
207
J Stephenson/F Lickliter 67 69 71
H Stacy/B Friend 65 71 70
L Hackney/D Gilford 69 69 69
209
M McGann/L Mattiace 66 72 72
210
A Sorenstam/D Esch 70 71 69
212
A Alcott/T Armour III 70 71 71
214
P Bradley/M Bradley 71 72 71

PGA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Marbella, Sp): **Leading final scores:**

420
Ireland 143 137 **140** (D McGrane 207, R Giles 213, D Mooney 220)
425
England 143 143 **139** (P Simpson 206, M Jones 224, S Khan 227)
426
Spain 144 146 **136** (J Pinero 218, Y Beaumonte 218, J Quiros 218)
428
Italy 144 143 **141** (S Locatelli 209, F Sintich 219, M Donghi 226)
429
Scotland 142 143 **144** (J Chillas 215, C Gillies 216, M King 222)
430
Wales 146 141 **143** (S Bebb 211, L Bond 223, P Evans 226)
433
Norway 145 146 **142** (J Drummond 216, D Bell 219, J Elgborn 226)
Switzerland 144 147 **142** (T Huyton 218, J Bialli 222, M Knight 223)
434
Portugal 147 145 **142** (J Carvalhosa 218, D Silva 219, A Sobrinho 223)
435
Austria 145 149 **141** (C Grenier 214, G Manson 221, S Beretzki 240)
439
Czech Republic 148 148 **143** (J Juhaniak 224, P Mruzek 225, P Strougal 226)
441
Netherlands 147 149 **145** (C Wasseberghe 218, A Saddington 223, A Morley 233)
443
Sweden 149 145 **149** (C Fjallman 217, S Sterner 230, T Burgoyne 237)
446
Germany 149 151 **146** (J Kennedy 222, U Eckhardt 224, M Mattheis 228)
Slovenia 145 147 **154** (D Karljic 219, J Grilc 230, M Lamberger 231)
449
Denmark 157 151 **141** (N Willett 228, D Jargensen 223, R Kurt 230)
450
Belgium 140 148 **153** (D Lebrasseur 226, R Vanbegin 232, D Petrie 236)
Finland 150 154 **146** (R Soravuo 225, S Wachter 225, T Sipponen 235)
458
Iceland 153 156 **149** (B Sigurbergsson 228, A Ollasson 234, H Arnarson 241)
464
Luxembourg 153 158 **153** (D Willams 230, M Dickey 238, J Pickford 242)
466
Greece 158 155 **153** (G Diakou 235, P Karantzias 238, E Nikitaidis 239)
520
Croatia 174 176 **170** (R Hendija 261, M Smiljjenovic 262, N Smoljjenovic 274)

Leading individual
206
P Simpson (Eng) 69 70 67
207
D McGrane (Ire) 70 68 69
209
S Locatelli (It) 70 71 68
211
S Bebb (Wales) 71 69 71
213
R Giles (Ire) 73 69 71
214
C Grenier (Aut) 73 72 69
215
J Chillas (Scot) 69 74 72
216
C Gillies (Scot) 73 71 72
J Pinero (Sp) 73 77 66
Y Beaumonte (Sp) 74 72 70
J Drummond (Nor) 74 73 69
217
C Fjallman (Sweden) 72 72 73
218
J Quiros (Sp) 71 74 73
T Huyton (Switz) 76 74 68
J Carvalhosa (Por) 74 70 74
C Wasseberghe (Neth) 71 75 72
219
F Sintich (It) 74 72 73
D Bell (Nor) 73 73 73
D Silva (Por) 73 75 71
D Karaljic (Slov) 70 71 78
Also: 220
D Mooney (Ire) 74 72 74
222
M King (Scot) 74 72 76
223
L Bond (Wales) 79 72 72
224
M Jones (Eng) 74 74 76
226
P Evans (Wales) 75 76 75
227
S Khan (Eng) 82 73 72

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP FINAL (Milan): **Sweden 4 Italy 1. Doubles** (Swe first). **J Bjorkman/N Kulti** bt D Nargiso/D Sanguinetti 7–6 6–1 6–3; **M Gustafsson** bt G Pozzi 6–4 6–2. M Norman lost to **Nargiso** 6–2 6–3

GIROBANK TOUR (Wrexham): **Finals: Men: P Hand** (Berks) bt N Gould (Avon) 7–6 2–6 7–6. **Women: N Egorova** (Rus) bt H Crook (Essex) 6–2 5–7 6–3.
SENIOR CHAMPION'S CHALLENGE (Olympia). **J McEnroe** (US) bt H Leconte (Fr) 6–4 6–2; **G Vilas** (Arg) bt M Bahrami (Iran) 6–3 7–6; **G Forget** (Fr) bt P Cash (Aus) 7–6 6–7 10–8; **Y Noah** (Fr) bt J Lloyd (GB) 7–5 7–6. **Final: McEnroe** bt Noah 7–5 6–3. **3/4th: Forget** bt Leconte 7–5 6–3. **Doubles: Semi-finals: N Broad/M Bahrami** (GB/Ire) bt P McNamara/V Amritraj (Aus/Ind) 6–4 6–4; **A Richardson/J Bates** (GB) bt M Petchey/P Fleming (GB/US) 6–4 5–5 rtd. **Final: Bates/Richardson** bt Broad/Bahrami 7–6 6–1.

BASKETBALL

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Newcastle 86 Greater London 80; Leicester 82 Manchester 103; Milton Keynes 77 Chester 82; Thames Valley 83 Sheffield 102; Chester 98 Thames Valley 78; Edinburgh 62 Birmingham 74.
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Towers 105 Worthing Bears 79

BOXING

PROFESSIONAL BILL (Bristol). **Vacant IBF Inter-continental super-middleweight title: G Catley** (Bristol) bt A Fiuls (Cosoley) rtd 5th. **Vacant Welsh light-middleweight title: P Samuels** (Newport) bt C Winter (Denbigh) ko 2nd

CRICKET

TOUR MATCHES: East London (SA). Border 282–9dec (C Sugden 76, B White 56; Dillon 4–56) and 340–6dec (W Wiblin 100no, Lewis 3–106). West Indies 356 (S Chanderpaul 82, P Wallace 66; Ensile 4–124). Match drawn.
Lahore (Pak): Zimbabwe 394 (M Goodwin 148; Salim Malik 5–77) and 211–5. LCCA 287–9dec (I Farha 76).
MERCANTILE CUP (Hobart) NSW 247–7 (50 overs; B Lee 65). Tasmania 250–2 (47.5 overs; D Boon 116, J Cox 91). Tasmania won by eight wickets.

HOCKEY

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bournville 5 Canterbury 6; Guildford 4 Loughtonians 1, Hounslow 0 Cannock 3; Southgate 4 Brooklands 1; Teddington 2 East Grinstead 1. **Postponed:** Beeston v Reading

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canterbury	9	8	1	0	41	20	25
Cannock	9	7	2	0	34	13	23
Southgate	9	7	0	2	28	17	21
Guildford	9	5	1	3	32	36	16
Beeston	8	4	2	2	23	19	14
Reading	8	3	3	2	21	19	12
Bournville	9	3	2	4	22	26	11
O Loughtonians	9	3	1	5	22	30	10
Teddington	9	3	0	6	25	25	9
Hounslow	9	2	2	5	16	23	8
E Grinstead	9	1	0	8	20	34	3
Brooklands	9	0	0	9	14	32	0

First Division: Bromley 3 Eastcote 3; Doncaster 1 St Albans 0 (abnd 24 mins). Hampstead 2 Chelmsford 4, Havant 3 Sheffield 1, Hull 1 Barford T 2, Indian Gym 3 Firebrands 3; Lewes 10 Isca 2; Loughboro S 4 Harleston 0 (abnd 49th min). Surbiton 4 Oxford Univ 1; Stourport 4 Oxford Hawks 4. **Standings: 1** Lewes 23, **2** Barford T 23; **3** Surbiton 22. **4** Havant 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lewes	10	7	2	1	39	19	23
Barford T	10	7	2	1	36	18	23
Surbiton	10	7	1	2	35	18	22
Havant	10	7	0	3	27	20	21
Stourport	10	6	2	2	37	18	20
Doncaster	9	6	2	1	25	12	20
Chelmsford	10	6	1	3	32	26	19
Indian Gym	10	4	4	2	29	27	16
Lough Stud	9	3	5	1	16	13	14
Eastcote	10	3	4	3	28	26	13
Isca	10	4	1	5	23	37	13
Firebrands	10	3	3	4	24	26	12
St Albans	9	3	1	5	29	33	10
Hampstead	10	3	1	6	24	31	10
Oxford Hks	10	1	6	3	21	25	9
Harleston	9	1	4	4	25	30	7
Oxford Univ	10	0	4	6	15	30	4
Bromley	9	1	1	7	13	30	4
Hull	9	1	1	7	9	29	4
Sheffield	10	0	3	7	16	35	3

EHA CUP: Fourth round: Canterbury 8, Pelicans 1; Chelmsford 2 Wimbledon 3 (aet); Chichester 2 Lewes 6; Doncaster 6 Clacton 1; Indian Gym 2 Brooklands 3; Old Cranleighans 4 Bournville 2; Old Loughtonians 5 Nottingham 1; Richmond 0 Reading 6; Robinsons 1 Old Georgians 2; Southgate 1 Bromley 0; Surbiton 1 Teddington 4; Winchester 2 Northampton Saints 3 (aet). **Postponed:** Bowdon v Loughboro Stud; Cannock (holders) v Harrogate; Hounslow v Norton; Sheffield v East Grinstead

SCOTTISH INDOOR LEAGUE (Perth) MIM 9 Clydesdale 5; Western 6 Grange 5; Menzieshill 8 Inverleith 6; Dundee W 14 Gordonians 2; MIM 7 Grange 5; Clydesdale 2 Menzieshill 8, Western 8 Gordonians 5; Dundee W 5 Inverleith 3.

NORTH PREMIER LEAGUE: Neston 3, Durham Univ 1

EHA WOMEN'S CUP: Fourth round: Bracknell 0 Doncaster 4, Chester 0 Olton 7, Ealing 4 BSE 0; Ipswich 3 Harleston M 0, Liverpool Sefton 0 Canterbury 1; Luton Town 0 Loughborough Students 5; Trojans 0 Chelmsford 1. Tulse Hill 5 Northampton 0; Wimbledon 2 Aldridge 2 (1-3 pens), Woking 4 Sutton Coldfield 3 **Postponed:** Blackburn N v Slough, Billingham v Eastbourne, Bradford v Horsham, Dulwich v Clifton; Fyffes Leicester v Sheffield, Hightown v Sherwood

WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Newtown 2 UWIC 0 **Standings: 1** Swansea 6–12 **2** Newtown 5–8; **3** Colwyn Bay 4–6

EHA WOMEN'S PLATE: Second round: BBHC 0 Harrow 1; Broxbourne 11 Old de Ferriens 0, Chichester 7 Guildford 1; Chippenham 2 Glos C 1, E Glos 0 Stratford 5; Redditch wo Edgbaston, Farnborough 4 Sonning 3. Hampstead 1 Anchorians 1 (2-1 pens). Leominster 3 Wrekin 3 (2–3 pens). Penzance 5 Paignton 2, Phoenix 2 M'Keynes 3; Reading 2 Poly 1, Redbridge wo WGC. Southgate wo Gravesend, Staines 2 Windsor 3; Taw Valley 0 Bournemouth 3 Teddington 1 Camberley 1 (4-3 pens); Wokingham 1 Winchester 3. Worthing 6 Burgess Hill 2; York 2 Moss Pk 1 (All other matches postponed)

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON & HEDGES CUP (Sheffield Arena) **Final:** Ayr 1 Nottingham
BENSON & HEDGES PLATE (Sheffield Arena). **Final:** Guildford 4 Telford 3
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Edinburgh 0 Paisley 4; Fife 7 Kingston 6
NHL: Carolina 3 Pittsburgh 3 (OT). Washington 5 NY Islanders 1, Buffalo 3 Philadelphia 0, New Jersey 1 Montreal 1 (OT). Colorado 2 St Louis 0, Tampa Bay 2 Edmonton 1; Vancouver 4 Dallas 1 San Jose 2 Detroit 2 (OT). **Saturday:** Boston 3 Pittsburgh 1; Montreal 3 Toronto 4 (OT), NY Islanders 5 New Jersey 7, Florida 3 Carolina 3; Ottawa 1 NY Rangers 2, Philadelphia 2 Washington 1; Nashville 1 Buffalo 3; St Louis 1 Colorado 3; Calgary 2 Phoenix 3; Los Angeles 3 Detroit 4

ROAD RUNNING

ASIAN GAMES WOMEN'S MARATHON (Bangkok, Thai): **1** N Takahashi (Japan) 2hr 21min 47sec (games rec). **2** K Chang (N Korea) 2.34.55, **3** T Kai (Japan) 2.35.01. **4** Pan Jinhong (China) 2.37.29. **5** Ruwiyati (Indo) 2.37.34; **6** S Pechpongpral (Thai) 2.42.39, **7** Kim Hye-Yong (S Korea) 2.44.37; **8** Wang Yanfang (China) 2.56.13

FUKUOKA MARATHON: 1 J Kabiga (Ken) 2hr 8min 42sec; **2** N Sato (Japan) 2.08.48; **3** T Ojima (Japan) 2.09.10; **4** N Igarashi (Japan) 2.09.38; **5** M Ojima (Japan) 2.09.50; **6** A Tolosa (Eth) 2.10.27. **7** M Taye (Eth) 2.11.12; **8** T Morikawa (Japan) 2.11.21. **9** L Bepio (Pol) 2.11.23; **10** Y Yamamoto (Japan) 2.11.24.

SKI JUMPING

WORLD CUP (Chamonix, Fr). **95m: 1** J Ahonen (Fin) 249.0pts (first jump 99.0m/second jump 97.5); **2** K Funaki (Japan) 243.5 (100.5/94.5); **3** M Schmitt (Ger) 240.5 (99.5/95.0); **4** M Harada (Japan) 240.0 (100.0/94.0), **5** M Laitinen (Fin) 225.5 (94.5/92.0), **6** M Aagheim (Nor) 225.0 (95.0/92.0), **6** N Kasai (Japan) 225.0 (96.0/90.0); **8** W Loitzl (Aut) 224.5 (95.0/90.0); **9** M Hoellwarth (Aut) 223.0 (94.0/91.5); **10** D Thoma (Ger) 221.5 (91.5/95.0); **11** S Horngacher (Aut) 219.5 (92.0/92.0); **12** A Widhoelzl (Aut) 216.5 (88.5/94.0); **13** S Hannawald (Ger) 216.0 (91.5/91.0); **14** R Schwarzenberger (Aut) 215.5 (90.5/92.0); **14** R Hornschuh (Ger) 215.5 (98.0/87.5). **World Cup standings** (after four of 30 events): **1** Schmitt 380pts; **2** Ahonen 340; **3** Funaki 250, **4** Loitzl 137; **5** Hannawald 134; **6** Kasai 130; **7** Morten 108; **8** Hornschuh 99; **9** N Dessum (Fr) 98, **10** Hoellwarth 97. **11** Thoma 94, **12** Horngacher 82; **13** Laitinen 74; **14** Widhoelzl 66; **15** Harada 65.

SNOOKER

MALTA GRAND PRIX (Bugibba) **Semi-finals: K Doherty** (Ire) bt M Williams (Wales) 6–2; **S Hendry** (Scot) bt A Borg (Malta) 6–2

FIGURE SKATING

NHK TROPHY (Sapporo, Japan). **Finals: Men: 1** E Plyushchenko (Russia) 1.5pts, **2** T Honda (Japan) 3.5; **3** Li Chongjiang (China) 4.0, **4** A Vlascenko (Ger) 7.5; **5** E Pliuta (Ukr) 8.0; **6** E Sandhu (Can) 10.0; **7** S Jeannotte (Fr) 11.5; **8** R Skorniakov (Uzb) 11.5, **9** Y Tamura (Japan) 12.0; **10** D Dolmore (US) 15.0, **11** Y Litvinov (Kaz) 15.0; **12** N Shigematsu (Japan) 17.5. **Final overall standings** (top six to GP final). **1** Plushenko 24pts; **2** A Yagudin (Rus) 24, **3** A Urmanov (Rus) 18; **4** M Weiss (US) 16; **5** A Abt (Rus) 16, **6** E Stojko (Can) 14
Women: 1 T Malinina (Uzb) 2.5pts, **2** I Slutskaya (Rus) 3.0; **3** F Suguri (Japan) 5.5; **4** E Liashenko (Ukr) 5.5; **5** V Gusmeroli (Fr) 6.0; **6** Y Vorobieva (Aze) 9.5; **7** E-M Fitza (Ger) 10.0; **8** S Arakawa (Japan) 12.0; **9** H Yokoya (Japan) 13.5, **10** K Ohs (Can) 15.5; **11** E Ivanova (Rus) 16.0; **12** A Nikodinov (US) ret. **Final overall standings** (top six to GP final): **1** E Sokolova (Rus) 24pts; **2** M Butyrskaya (Rus) 24; **3** Liashenko 17; **4** T Malinina (Uzb) 16; **5** Suguri 16; **6** Slutskaya 16
Pairs: 1 E Berezhnaya/A Sikharulidze (Rus) 1.5pts, **2** Shen Xue/Zhao Hongbo (China) 3.5; **3** J Sale/D Pelletier (Can) 5.0, **4** D Hartsell/S Hartsell (US) 5.0; **5** M Petrova/A Tikhonov (Rus) 8.0, **6** M Khalturina/A Kroukov (Kaz) 8.5; **7** N Micallef/B Marcotte (Can) ret. **Final overall standings** (top six to GP final): **1** Berezhnaya/Sikharulidze 24pts, **2** Petrova/Tikhonov 21; **3** Shen Xue/Zhao Hongbo 18, **4** K Ina/J Zimmerman (US) 16; **5** S Abitbol/S Bernadis (Fr) 15, **6** K Sargeant/K Wirtz (Can) 14
Ice Dance: 1 M Anissina/G Peizerat (Fr) 2.0pts; **2** I Lobacheva/I Averbukh (Rus) 4.0; **3** M Drobiazko/P Vanagas (Lith) 6.0; **4** K Winkler/R Lohse (Ger) 8.0, **5** T Navka/R Kastamarov (Rus) 10.0; **6** M Wing/A Lowe (Can) 12.0; **7** E Chalom/M Gates (US) 14.0, **8** C Clements/G Shortland (GB) 16.0; **9** R Arikawa/K Miyamoto (Japan) 18.4, **10** N Watanabe/A Kido (Japan) 19.6 **Final overall standings** (top six to GP final) **1** Anissina/Peizerat 24pts; **2** A Krylova/O Ovsyannikov (Rus) 24, **3** S-L Bourne/V Kraatz (Can) 21; **4** Lobacheva/Averbukh 18, **5** B Fusar-Poli/M Margaglio (It) 16, **6** Drobiazko/Vanagas 16.

SPEED SKATING

WORLD CUP (Beijing): **Short-track: Men's 1000m: 1** Li Jiajun (China) 1min 35.10sec; **2** T Satoru (Japan) 1.35.23; **3** Kim Dong-sung (S Kor) 1.35.29 **3,000m: 1** Lee Jun-hwan (S Korea) 5.24.20; **2** Van Vossel Simon (Bel), **3** M Turcotte (Can)
Women's 1000m: 1 Yang Yang A (China) 1.40.81, **2** Yang Yang S (China) 1.40.82, **3** Wang Chunlu (China) 1.41.00. **3,000m: 1** Yang Yang A 5.43.71, **2** Choi Min-kyung (S Kor) 5.43.94, **3** Yang Yang S 5.44.21

SQUASH

WORLD OPEN (Doha, Qatar) **Final: J Power** (Can) bt P Nicol (Scot) 16–17 15–7 15–9 15–10

SWIMMING

WORLD CUP SHORT-COURSE CHAMPIONSHIPS (College Station, Texas): **Finals: Men: 100m backstroke: 1** R Brewer (US) 53.44, **2** B Sikora (US) 54.18; **3** M Gilliam (US) 54.46 **200m freestyle: 1** J Davis (US) 1.45.24 **2** B Szabados (Hun) 1.47.43, **3** Y DeFabrique (Fr) 1.47.86 **100m butterfly: 1** S Muhammad (US) 52.42; **2** B Newman (US) 54.13; **3** J Schroeder (US) 54.42. **400m individual medley: 1** T Wilkens (US) 4.15.56; **2** E Vendt (US) 4.16.58, **3** B Sikora (US) 4.17.67.
Women: 100m backstroke: 1 N Coughlin (US) 58.59, **2** B Bedford (US) 59.56, **3** L Oberstar (US) 1.00.81 **200m freestyle: 1** C Teuscher (US) 1.58.05; **2** S Arsenault (US) 2.00.25, **3** K Black (US) 2.00.57 **100m butterfly: 1** M Moravcova (Slov) 58.30; **2** A Tappin (US) 58.84, **3** B Bedford (US) 1.00.42. **400m individual medley: 1** N Coughlin (US) 4.36.24, **2** C Teuscher (US) 4.36.38; **3** K Yevak (US) 4.42.40

VOLLEYBALL

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Men, First Division: Stoke 3 Liverpool 1 (10–15 15–13 15–10 15–9); Malory London 3 Warwick 0 (15–8 15–5 15–5).

Fixtures

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sheff Wed v Nottm Forest (8.0).
FA TROPHY: Second-round replays: Lincoln Utd v Kidderminster (7.45); Rothwell Tn v Hendon (7.45)
CONFERENCE: Hednesford v Telford (7.45)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Weymouth v Gloucester C (7.30); Worcester C v Bath C (7.30) **Southern Division:** Chelmsford C v Ashford Tn; Dartford v Sittingbourne
N-W TRAINS FLOODLIT TROPHY: Second round: Clitheroe v Oldham Tn
PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Blackburn v Sunderland (7.0); Leicester v Derby (7.0). **Third Division:** Carlisle v Hartlepool (2.0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Chelsea v QPR (7.0), Millwall v Swindon (2.0) **Postponed:** Arsenal v Luton.

Racing

Chris Hawkins on a former Gold Cup winner who has made tremendous strides under his new trainer

Imperial Call jumps into the picture

A REJUVENATED Imperial Call, the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, scored a thrilling victory over Dorans Pride in the John Durkan Memorial Punchestown Chase over two-and-a-half miles yesterday.

Imperial Call, starting at 13-8, had a terrific duel with 25-1 chance Bob Treacy throughout the last half mile, but a mistake by his rival at the final fence settled the issue. Dorans Pride, the even-money favourite, could never quite go the pace, but ran on from the last to be beaten two-and-a-half lengths.

Raymond Hurley has done a great job to coax a return to form in Imperial Call, who was trained by the now retired Fergie Sutherland when successful at Cheltenham. Hurley said: "We won't be making firm plans until we see how he recovers in the next few days.

"He's in the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown and the King George at Kempton. At the moment my preference would be the King George provided there's some cut in the ground."

Imperial Call was ridden by Paul Carberry, who was completing a three-timer at the meeting, having earlier won on Roses Of Picardy and Native Dara. Carberry, 24, is enjoying a fine season now that he is based back in Ireland and is level with Ruby Walsh in the title race.

He made much of the running on Imperial Call and sat tight when his mount hit the fourth from home. "I was happy to let him bowl along at a sensible pace and he was gaining lengths at most of his fences," said Carberry, whose father, Tommy, twice won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on L'Escargot.

Richard Dunwoody, who rode Dorans Pride, was not too downcast by his defeat and said: "Jumping out of that holding ground didn't help my horse. He made a mistake at the last first time round and it took him a long time to get going again." Imperial Call was cut from 25-1 to 14-1 for the Gold Cup by Hill's, who have Florida Pearl 4-1 favourite followed by See More Business at 7-1, Cyfor Malta at 10-1 and Dorans Pride at 12-1 (from 10's).

Cyfor Malta, Martin Pipe's exciting young chaser, is unproven for stamina, but will surely come in for more support if successful in Saturday's main event at Cheltenham, the Tripleprint Gold Cup. The five-year-old, who like all horses has a birthday on January 1, has plenty of weight with 11st 13lb, but Pipe fully expects him to run. "He'll be declared and I expect Tony McCoy to ride, although I haven't fully discussed everything with everybody yet," said Pipe. "I've also entered Northern Starlight and Tamarindo." Cyfor Malta is likely to be taken on by some talented rivals, including the Newbury winner Stormy Passage and Red Marauder, seeking a four-timer after his impressive Ascot victory last month. Mr Strong Gale, second to Stormy Passage at Newbury, is another probable opponent.

If the Cheltenham Gold Cup becomes the target for Cyfor Malta he will be attempting to become only the fifth six-year-old to win the race since it was inaugurated in 1924. If successful, he would be joining the greats Golden Miller, Fortina, Mont Tremblant and Mill House.

Jonjo O'Neill, who won the Gold Cup on Dawn Run in 1986, saddles one of today's best bets in Ivy House (2.00) in the Little Bird Handicap Chase over three miles and five furlongs at Ayr.

Ivy House stays all day and appeared to be an unlucky loser at Carlisle recently, falling at the last when a length clear of Blue Irish.

Tony McCoy goes to Fakenham for two mounts — Highly Reputable (12.50) and Yajtahed (1.50).

The latter has 13 lengths to make up on Mothers Help in the Eastern Daily Press Novices Hurdle, but has a 6lb pull and will be fitted with blinkers which enabled him to win at Bath on the Flat this season.



Happy return . . . Tony McCoy leads the way home on Dines (left) at Sandown

PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Direct Route stakes strong Festival claim

Chris Hawkins

ON PAPER the Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown on Saturday looked a highly-competitive contest, but Direct Route turned it into a breeze.

The forcefully-ridden Edredon Bleu did not jump with foot-perfect fluency, but still had his rivals toiling turning for home; all except one — Direct Route, who was still hard on the steel.

Norman Williamson had only to shake up his mount after the last for an impressive victory and on this display Direct Route, who has now won 50 per cent of his races (13 out of 26), could be the two-mile champion come the Cheltenham Festival in March.

The success of the seven-year-old is a great tribute to the training skills of Howard Johnson, who took on the horse after others had turned him down because of physical defects — he has a twisted foot and dropped pelvis.

"I can't compete with the Lambourn lot, but I'm good enough if the horse is," said Johnson, who trains at Crook in County Durham.

Unfathomable things often happen in the world of betting, but one of the craziest for some time was the price of Blowing Wind in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle, for which he started 11-8 favourite.

Burdened with 12 stone and giving away two stone to all but four of his 12 opponents, he appeared to have a huge task. But such is the mystique of Martin Pipe, his trainer, that the bookmakers seemed running scared. Surely this horse was one they would have wanted to lay.

Punters who refused to be stampeded into backing the favourite benefited from a juicy 16-1 about the winner Polar Prospect, who was followed home by 11-1 chance Serenus with Out Ranking, Pipe's apparent second string, third at 14-1.

Blowing Wind never got in a blow, although he ran on under pressure to finish fourth. "The weight anchored him," said Pipe. "We would have loved to have won, but he was running on and it was no disgrace. He could still be my one for the Champion Hurdle."

Polar Prospect, ridden by Glenn Tormey, who won the race two seasons ago on Make A Stand, was finally rewarded for some consistent efforts which had seen him finish out of the frame only once in his previous seven outings.

"He hasn't run a bad race for two years and certainly deserved it," said Sarah Hobbs, wife of trainer Philip who was at Chepstow where he scored with Sadler's Realm.

Tony McCoy came back from his whip ban in a blaze of publicity, including a BBC television feature on his re-education in the use of the whip at Newmarket, with an inevitable winner — Dines, who made all the running in the Henry VIII Novice Chase.

Following an initial show of petulant annoyance — the whip-throwing incident at Cheltenham — McCoy has coped well with what has almost amounted to public humiliation. After totalling 253 winners in one season it must be tough to be told where he is going wrong by an instructor, however well intentioned, who hardly rode 250 winners in his career.

At Chepstow, the Rehearsal Chase produced a win for odds-on shot See More Business, but left a question mark about whether he will ever jump well enough to win a Cheltenham Gold Cup.

As at Haydock on his reappearance, he made mistakes and was not convincing in beating Dom Samurai just over a length.

Ayr programme with guide to the form

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
1.00	Star Selection	Cavalier D'or
1.30	Begorrat	Farfields Prince (nap)
2.00	Ivy House (nap)	Ivy House
2.30	Son Of Iris	Parsons Boy
3.00	Course Doctor	Course Doctor
3.30	Northern Motto	Sunrise Sensation

Oval, left-handed track of 1½m with 210yds run-in. Suits the speedy type when the ground is firm.
Going: Soft, good to soft in places. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Seven-day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 2.00 Ivy House. **Visored:** None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

1.00 SAMMY RODGER NOVICES CHASE
2m £3,610 (11 declared)

1	243533	Cavalier D'or (18) J J O'Neill 7-11-6	R McGrath	●90
2	212-F1	Premier Cru (38) (D) M Todhunter 6-11-6	R Dunwoody	89
3	031-4C	Star Selection (12) (CD) (BF) J Mackie 7-11-6	E Husband	84
4	5014/4	Charlie Foxtrot (31) (D) Miss L Russell 6-11-0	B Johnson	88
5	06P-0	Chevalier Bayard (22) J Adam 5-11-0	B Powell	—
6	444-45	Common Sound (12) (D) J Barclay 7-11-0	R Supple	83
7	60/14-	North Tipp (519) J Barclay 9-11-0	A Dobbin	—
8	-11133	Rossel (8) (CD) P Monteith 5-11-0	C McCormack (5)	—
9	3-3F0	Strong Mission (9) B Mactaggart 7-11-0	B Storey	—
10	13411-	Wynyard Knight (215) (D) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0	P Niven	—
11	635654	Helm Wind (12) M Barnes 5-10-9	S Taylor	85

Betting: 11-4 Premier Cru, 9-2 Cavalier D'or, Wynyard Knight, 5-1 Star Selection, Charlie Foxtrot, 10-1 Rossel, 16-1 Common Sound, Helm Wind.

FORM GUIDE - Cavalier D'or: Held up, headway 7th, stayed on one pace from 3 out, 3rd of 10, 15l behind Hobbs Lord at Aintree 2m hcap ch, Gd-Sft. **Premier Cru:** Tracked leader, led 8th, soon clear, eased flat, won by 14l at Pin Mony at Wetherby 3m nov ch, Gd. **Star Selection:** Led and left clear 2nd, mistake 7th, headed between last 2, soon beaten, 3rd of 10, 10l behind Stash The Cash, with Helm Wind (rec 12lb) 4th, btn 18l. **Common Sound** (rec 7lb) 5th, btn 18l, at Hexham 2m nov ch, Hvy. **Charlie Foxtrot:** Held up, headway 8th, chased winner from 3 out until weakened flat, 4th of 10, 19l behind Kadou Nonantais at Uttoxeter 2m nov ch, Sft. **Chevalier Bayard:** Behind, steady headway 7th, soon in touch, weakened 4 out, 9th of 15, well behind Cope With Reality at Ayr 2m5f nov hdle, Gd-Sft. **North Tipp:** Fourth of 12, 14l behind Miracle Me at Tipperary 2m hcap hdle, Gd. **Rossel:** Tracked leaders, led 5th until 3 out, kept on one pace, 3rd of 9, 5l behind Toshiba Talk at Newcastle 2m amat hcap hdle, Gd-Sft. **Strong Mission:** Mistakes, prominent until 8th, 7th of 10, well behind Aghawadda Gold at Newcastle 2m nov ch, Gd-Sft. **Wynyard Knight:** Good headway to lead 2 out, ran on well flat, driven out, won by 1l from Overerman at Wetherby 2m hcap hdle, Gd.

1.30 JIM O'HARE NOVICE HURDLE
2m £2,408 (13 declared)

1	2116	Farfields Prince (27) (D) G M Moore 6-11-8	J Callaghan	●90
2	4	Begorrat (22) J Goldie 4-10-12	R Dunwoody	86
3	0	Billy Dont (55) P Monteith 5-10-12	C McCormack (5)	—
4	4	Cinema Paradiso (26) N Richards 4-10-12	A Dobbin	83
5		Finisterre (F14) J J O'Neill 5-10-12	R McGrath	—
6	0-	Flaming Sunrise (229) R McDonald 7-10-12	W Dowling (5)	—
7		Future Prospect (F33) M A Buckley 4-10-12	R Johnson	—
8		Gymcrak Jester (F738) M Barnes 4-10-12	S Taylor	—
9	000-0	Ingle Dene (22) B Mactaggart 5-10-12	B Lee	—
10	00-	Over The Solway (233) L Lungo 6-10-12	R Supple	—
11		Rapier (F91) M Hammond 4-10-12	B Harding	—
12	0	Stephen's Brae (22) N Richards 6-10-12	E Callaghan	—
13		Baby Gee D Williams 4-10-7	I Jardine (7)	—

Betting: 2-1 Rapier, 5-2 Farfields Prince, 5-1 Begorrat, 8-1 Cinema Paradiso, Finisterre, 12-1 Future Prospect, 20-1 Stephen's Brae, Baby Gee

FORM GUIDE - Farfields Prince: Chased leaders, driven along 3 out, weakened approaching next, 5th of 11, 15l behind Tessope at Sedgefield 2m1f nov hdle, Gd Sft. **Begorrat:** Tracked leaders, every chance 4 out, ridden and one pace from next, 4th of 14, 7l behind Eastern Project, with Ingle Dene (levels) 13th, well behind, at Ayr 2m nov hdle, Gd-Sft. **Billy Dont:** Held up, headway 6l out, soon weakened, tailed off 3f out, last of 12, well behind Cope With Reality at Sedgefield 2m1f NH Flat, Gd-Sft. **Cinema Paradiso:** Led until 3rd, led 5th until 3 out, soon ridden and beaten, 4th of 10, 39l behind Firewood at Kelso 2m nov hdle, Sft. **Finisterre:** Always in touch, effort 3f out, kept on same pace 5th of 16, 40l behind The Stager at Southwell 1m hcap, AW. **Flaming Sunrise:** Prominent until halfway, soon behind, 9th of 11, well behind Catherine's Choice at Perth 2m4f mdn hdle, Gd. **Future Prospect:** Chased leaders until lost place over 3f out, 14th of 16, 36l behind Flower O'Cannie at Musselburgh 1m4f hcap, Sft. **Gymcrak Jester:** In touch to halfway, weakened quickly, 7th of 8, 33l behind Ball-Pet at Southwell 1m sell, AW. **Over The Solway:** Headway 6f out, ridden and weakened 3f out, 8th of 11, 32l behind Tonoco at Ayr 2m NH Flat, Gd. **Rapier:** In touch, effort 3f out, stayed on, no impression, 5th of 10, 7l behind Wise Venture at Hamilton 1m hcap, Sft. **Stephen's Brae:** Held up, never near to challenge, 8th of 15, 15l behind Lord Of The Sky at Ayr 2m NH Flat, Gd-Sft.

2.00 LITTLE BIRD HANDICAP CHASE
3m 5f £3,590 (11 declared)

1	2663-6	Judicious Captain (23) (C) J Adam 11-11-11	B Powell	86
2	13/3F	Ivy House (11) (C) (D) J J O'Neill 10-11-10	R McGrath ★	●90
3	211-44	For Cathal (37) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-8	P Niven	87
4	41F1-2	Peter (11) D Whillans 10-11-7	C McCormack (5)	84
5	2213-5	Prime Example (12) M Todhunter 7-10-12	R Dunwoody	86
6	/313-2	Clairabell (24) (C) J Charlton 7-10-11	B Storey	88
7	P12/06	Mister Trick (18) (D) L Lungo 8-10-11	R Supple ★	—
8	13F-0P	Maybe O'Grady (12) W Cunningham 9-10-3	M Smith	88
9	5P0-FF	Shining Fountain (5) D M Forster 9-10-3	B Harding	—
10	PP-254	Copperhurst (31) (C) W Kemp 7-10-0	R Johnson	85
11	46/352	Bright Destiny (12) J Goldie 7-10-0	O McPhail (5)	84

Betting: 4-1 Ivy House, 9-2 Clairabell, 5-1 For Cathal, Prime Example, 11-2 Peter, 10-1 Copperhurst, Bright Destiny.

FORM GUIDE - Judicious Captain: Chased leaders until weakened 7th, soon tailed off, 6th of 8, well behind The Next Waltz at Ayr 3m hcap hdle, Gd-Sft. **For Cathal:** Behind, effort 12th, some headway last, ridden and no impression, 4th of 10, 13l behind Burnt Imp at Kelso 2m6f hcap ch, Sft. **Peter:** Led from 14th, blundered 3 out, headed 2 out, beaten when badly hampered last, 2nd of 5, 6l behind Blue Irish, with Ivy House (gave 8lb) fell at last, at Carlisle 3m2f hcap ch, Hvy. **Clairabell:** In touch outpaced 12th, headway 4 out, ran on well towards finish, 3rd of 6, 11 behind Purevalue at Newcastle 3m hcap ch, Gd-Sft. **Mister Trick:** Never went pace, 6th of 13, 41l behind Zamhereer at Sedgefield 3m3f am hcap ch, Gd-Sft. **Shining Fountain:** Blundered and fell at the 1st in race won by Jemaro at Haydock 2m4f hcap ch, Sft. **Copperhurst:** Always close up, led 4th, ridden 3 out, headed next, soon weakened, 4th of 10, 22l behind Marnica at Hexham 2m4l cond hcap ch, Hvy. **Bright Destiny:** Headway 4 out, chased leaders 2 out, hampered and jumped slowly last, stayed on well, 2nd of 12, 3l behind Solsgrith, with Prime Example (gave 25lb) 5th, btn 6l, Maybe O'Grady (gave 19lb) pulled up last, at Hexham 2m4f hcap ch, Hvy.

2.30 GEORGE GRAHAM MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
3m 1f £4,841 (6 declared)

1	P13-33	Parsons Boy (9) (D) N Richards 9-11-10	A Dobbin	●90
2	U24-32	Son Of Iris (30) (D) Mrs M Reveley 10-11-2	P Niven	89
3	11312/	Santa Concerto (571) (CD) (BF) L Lungo 9-10-12	R Supple	—
4	420/1-	Maitre De Musique (366) M Todhunter 7-10-10	R Dunwoody	88
5	44-133	Burnt Imp (11) (C) G M Moore 8-10-8	J Callaghan	86
6	53-111	Solsgirth (12) (C) J Barclay 7-10-0	C McCormack (5)	86

Betting: 3-1 Son Of Iris, 7-2 Parsons Boy, Solsgirth, 9-2 Maitre De Musique, Burnt Imp, 10-1 Santa Concerto.

FORM GUIDE - Parsons Boy: Chased leaders, hard ridden 13th, stayed on from 2 out, 3rd of 6, 13l behind Dom Samourai at Haydock 3m4f hcap ch, Sft. **Son Of Iris:** Held up, ridden and lost touch 13th, rallied 16th, chased winner approaching 2 out, 2nd of 3, 14l behind Share Options at Uttoxeter 3m2f hcap ch, Sft. **Santa Concerto:** Chased winner, kept on well from last, 2nd of 8, 2l behind Crown Equerry at Carlisle 3m nov ch, Gd-Sft. **Maitre De Musique:** Tracked leaders, led from 9th, held on well under pressure, won by 2l from Purevalue at Wetherby 2m4f nov ch, Gd-Sft. **Burnt Imp:** Soon chasing leader, led 11th, soon clear, ridden and headed last, one pace, 3rd of 9, 4l behind Betty's Boy at Uttoxeter 2m7f hcap ch, Sft. **Solsgirth:** Led from 8th, kept on gamely flat, won by 3l from Bright Destiny at Hexham 2m4l hcap ch, Hvy.

3.00 GEORGE STEEL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE
2m 5f 110yds £3,756 (14 declared)

1	222-P4	Bourbon Dynasty (22) N Richards 5-11-10	A Dobbin	89
2	12-F1U	Course Doctor (8) (C) G M Moore 6-11-8	J Callaghan	●90
3	161403	Mr Cavallo (23) (D) Miss L Russell 6-11-0	B Johnson	87
4	/F33S-	Kings Lane (226) J Dun 9-10-12	E Husband	86
5	/100P2	Thorntoun House (23) J Goldie 5-10-11	E Callaghan	—
6	2-1F4U	Triggerfish (11) P Monteith 6-10-8	B Storey	—
7	3421P7	Hancock (F479) (D) (BF) J Hetherton 6-10-7	P Niven	—
8	5456/6	Monsieur Darcy (43) J Adam 7-10-4	B Powell	—
9	003-40	Amoebic (9) M Todhunter 5-10-4	C McCormack (5)	—
10	-3523P	Manhattan Rainbow (24) Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-1	B Harding	87
11	F6P-6U	Super Guy (7) J Barclay 6-10-0	D Parker	—
12	5F-24P	Mr Sloan (12) J Goldie 8-10-0	O McPhail (5)	85
13	066-20	The Other Half (43) L Lungo 6-10-0	R Supple	—
14	P/5-PP	Oilies Boy (38) J Barclay 7-10-0	S Taylor	—

Betting: 7-2 Course Doctor, 5-1 Bourbon Dynasty, Mr Cavallo, 6-1 Kings Lane, 8-1 Thorntoun House, 10-1 Monsieur Darcy, 12-1 Hancock.

FORM GUIDE - Bourbon Dynasty: Prominent, every chance from 8th until outpaced from 2 out, 4th of 8, 43l behind Sweep Gently at Ayr 2m nov ch, Gd-Sft. **Course Doctor:** Held up, close 3rd when blundered and unseated rider at the 10th in race won by No Retreat at Haydock 2m4f nov ch, Sft. **Kings Lane:** Driven along and outpaced 13th, rallied 4 out, soon weakened, 5th of 8, 23l behind Apache Raider at Sedgefield 3m3f nov ch, Gd. **Thorntoun House:** Led, headed after 4 out, outpaced 2 out, kept on towards finish, 2nd of 6, 23l behind My Sillamillo, with Mr Cavallo (gave 8lb) 3rd, btn 5l, at Ayr 2m4f nov hcap hdle, Gd-Sft. **Triggerfish:** Blundered and unseated rider at the 1st in race won by Scotia Nostra at Carlisle 3m4f nov ch, Hvy. **Hancock:** Always struggling in rear before being pulled up 2 out in race won by One More Dime at Ludlow 2m5f nov hcap hdle, Gd-Fm. **Monsieur Darcy:** Disputed lead until 5th, one pace from 4 out, 6th of 15, 39l behind Woodfield Gale at Wetherby 2m4f mdn hdle, Sft. **Amoebic:** Mistakes, soon well behind, 8th of 10, well behind Aghawadda Gold at Newcastle 3m nov ch, Gd-Sft. **Manhattan Rainbow:** Chased leaders, blundered 12th, soon well behind pulled up 4 out in race won by Master Nova at Newcastle 3m nov ch, Gd-Sft. **Super Guy:** Chased leaders, mistake 3rd, blundered and unseated rider at the 7th in race won by Birkdale at Kelso 2m6f nov ch, Hvy. **Mr Sloan:** Soon behind, tailed off when pulled up at the last in race won by Bold Action at Hexham 3m1f hcap ch, Hvy. **The Other Half:** Soon outpaced and behind, 11th of 13, 43l behind Donnybrook at Wetherby 2m nov hcap hdle, Sft. **Oilies Boy:** Mistakes, soon behind pulled up 4 out in race won by Nosam at Sedgefield 2m5l nov ch, Gd-Sft.

3.30 BREATH OF FRESH AYR NOVICE HURDLE
2m 4f £2,318 (9 declared)

1	4643-1	Sunrise Sensation (51) R McDonald 5-11-3	R Supple	●90
2	6F6	Extra Proud (22) W Amos 4-10-12	M Foster	87
3	40-	Fan D'Estruval (282) M Todhunter 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	84
4	25U3-2	Northern Motto (16) J Goldie 5-10-12	O McPhail (5)	89
5	/340P-	Time Warrior (261) G M Moore 7-10-12	J Callaghan	88
6	0-	Commanche Trix (218) J J O'Neill 6-10-7	R McGrath	—
7	1P-P54	Double Buck (149) W Kemp 6-10-7	B Powell	85
8	1/6P-4	Linwood (22) N Richards 7-10-7	A Dobbin	86
9	6-	Toots (306) B Mactaggart 6-10-7	B Storey	—

Betting: 2-1 Sunrise Sensation, 9-4 Northern Motto, 5-1 Fan D'estruval, 8-1 Double Buck, Linwood, 10-1 Time Warrior, 20-1 Toots.

FORM GUIDE - Sunrise Sensation: Made most until after 5th, disputing lead when left in lead last, stayed on, won by 8l from The Other Half at Kelso 2m nov hdle, Hvy. **Fan D'Estruval:** Held up, headway 7th, ridden and lost place 9th, tailed off, 10th of 19, well behind Abco Horn at Haydock 2m6f mdn hdle, Sft. **Northern Motto:** Held up, headway 8th, challenged last, soon ridden, unable to quicken, 2nd of 8, 1l behind Radiation at Aintree 3m nov hdle, Gd-Sft. **Time Warrior:** Lost place 6th, soon well behind pulled up 2 out in race won by Joe Buzz at Newcastle 2m4l nov hdle, Gd. **Commanche Trix:** Prominent 13f, 9th of 16, 18l behind Dasyerman at Uttoxeter 2m Nat Hunt Flat, Gd-Sft. **Double Buck:** Led to 2nd, chased leaders, disputed lead 3 until hampered and outpaced approaching next, kept on towards finish, 4th of 12, 6l behind Mr Cavallo at Sedgefield 2m5f nov hdle, Fm. **Linwood:** Led to 7th, weakened 4 out, 4th of 15, 30l behind Cope With Reality with Extra Proud (gave 5lb) 6th, well behind, at Ayr 2m6f nov hdle, Gd-Sft. **Toots:** Driven along after 3rd, never dangerous, 6th of 12, 49l behind Aghawadda Gold at Kelso 2m nov hdle, Gd-Sft.

Turnell waits on Gatflax test

GATFLAX, who cost 200,000 guineas and was thought to have broken a blood vessel when trailing in last at Wetherby on Saturday, is expected to be in action again later this month.

Andy Turnell forecasts a return to action "around Christmas time" for the gelding whose recent purchase price made him the most expensive jumper sold at public auction in Britain.

The trainer initially blamed a broken blood vessel for the six-year-old's dismal showing — his first run for the yard in a novice chase — but yesterday Turnell said: "He now seems fine. He bled from both nostrils after the race at Wetherby, but we will canter him and scope him to see if it is his lungs.

"He also cut his lip when he overjumped at a fence and we hope that the blood from his nose is related to that, rather than his lungs."

KEEPING TRACK
09064 700 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
AYR	141	151
FAKENHAM	142	152
LINGFIELD	143	153
ALL COURSES COMMENTARY	09064 700 140	
ALL COURSES RESULTS	09064 700 150	

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Inspection at Fakenham

RACING at Fakenham today hinges on a 7.30am inspection. Clerk of the course David Hunter is confident that snow, which covered the track yesterday, will not be a problem, but a forecast for overnight frost is giving him a new headache.

"We will inspect in the morning as there is three degrees of frost forecast, but if it is milder, we will be laughing," said Hunter.

Fakenham runners and riders

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
12.50	Highly Reputable (nb)	Limit The Damage
1.20	Northern Saddler	Northern Saddler
1.50	Yajtahead	Bold King
2.20	Manor Mieo	Bassenhally
2.50	Skycab	Skycab
3.20	Burn Out	Bartholomew Fair

Sharp, left-handed track, 1m round with 200yds run-in. Suits the handy front runner
Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers ● Top form rating.
● **7.30 INSPECTION.**
Seven-day winners: 12.50 Limit The Damage
Blinkered first time: 1.50 Yajtahed. **Visored:** 12.50 Modest Hope; 3.20 Durabrattin.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat

12.50 G.B. PRINT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
2m £1,222 (12 declared)

1	243-0:	Limit The Damage (5) (7lb ex) (D) J White 6-12-1	J Goldstein (5)	●90
2	6-0	Epigram (126) D Carroll 5-11-13	A C Coyle (5)	89
3	116-00	Highly Reputable (18) (CD) G Bravery 6-11-8	A P McCoy	—
4	F5C212	Multi Franchise (5) (BF) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-7	D Leahy	89
5	1-5323	Scorched Air (45) (CD) Mrs S Lamyman 6-11-3	R Farrant ★	87
6	/P00-4	Pegasus Bay (F10) (D) (BF) D Cantillon 7-10-7	N Williamson	86
7	P-0551	Barton Scamp (11) (D) D Williams 6-10-6	E Byrne (7)	87
8	-00325	Cordial Knight (25) C Morlock 5-10-4	T Mortimer (7)	85
9	-0P00E	Emerald Venture (18) (D) F Coton 11-10-0	Mr C Rae	83
10	P/0-6P	The Grey Texan (18) A Blackmore 9-10-0	R Garrard (7)	—
11	4P/4-P	Modest Hope (P17) Mrs S Lamyman 11-10-0	J Magee ★	82
12	-60036	Rose Flyer (98) M Chapman 8-10-0	W Worthington	—

Betting: 9-2 Limit The Damage, Barton Scamp, 5-1 Scorched Air, 11-2 Multi Franchise, 7-1 Highly Reputable, Pegasus Bay, 8-1 Epigram, Cordial Knight.

1.20 L.L. FIRTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
2m 110yds £4,282 (7 declared)

1	014-UU	No Pattern (7) (D) G L Moore 6-12-0	P Hide ★	—
2	641F-4	The Moor (18) (D) M Tompkins 7-11-11	A Maguire	85
3	633-44	Northern Saddler (19) (CD) R Hodges 11-10-8	N Williamson	●90
4	P3U30-	No Such Parson (282) Mrs J Buckley 8-10-8	W Marston	89
5	605-P4	Sleazey (14) (D) J O'Neill 7-10-3	D Leahy	88
6	P052-P	Highland Flame (23) (D) A Blackmore 9-10-0	L Aspell	84
7	F-4P40	Stage Player (186) (D) Miss C Caroe 12-10-0	C Webb	—

Betting: 9-4 Northern Saddler, 5-2 The Moor, 3-1 Sleazey, 10-1 No Pattern, Highland Flame, Stage Player, 16-1 No Such Parson.

1.50 EASTERN DAILY PRESS JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE 3YO
2m £2,663 (9 declared)

1	[illegible]	Bold King (10) [illegible] 11-4	D Leahy	●90
2	[illegible]	Mothers Help (10) (D) [illegible] 10-11	N Williamson	89
3	[illegible]	Moon Quest (27) [illegible] 10-12	Mr R Forristal (7)	—
4		River Beat (F43) [illegible] 10-12	A Maguire	—
5	[illegible]	Senor Hurst (16) [illegible] 10-12	W Marston	84
6		Tecmaaro (F16) [illegible] 10-12	L Aspell	—
7	[illegible]	Yajtahed (23) [illegible] 10-12	A P McCoy ★	86
8	[illegible]	Gracie Grey (23) [illegible] 10-7	J Magee	—
9		Sassy (F24) [illegible]	D Byrne	—

Betting: [illegible]

2.20 STEPHENSON SMART HANDICAP CHASE
3m 110yds £4,029 (5 declared)

1	[illegible]	Symbol Of Success (178) (D) C Williams 7-12-0	E Byrne (7)	86
2	[illegible]	Bassenhally (27) (CD) (BF) Mrs P Sly 8-11-11	W Marston	●90
3	[illegible]	Manor Mieo (22) (CD) [illegible] 12-10-11	J Goldstein (5) ★	88
4	[illegible]	Dandie Imp (93) (CD) [illegible] 10-10-6	A P McCoy	88
5	[illegible]	Priceline Penny (21) (D) Mrs G Jones 7-10-0	J Culloty	—

Betting: [illegible] Manor Mieo, [illegible] Symbol Of Success, 6-1 Dandie Imp, [illegible] Priceline Penny

2.50 GRAHAM BUILDING SUPPLIES NOVICE CHASE
2m 5f 110yds £3,313 (8 declared)

1	040-0F	Eau Benite (16) [illegible] 7-10-12	B Clifford	84
2	[illegible]	El Cordobes (23) Mrs J Buckley 7-10-12	W Marston	—
3	211C-P	Lead Vocalist (30) (C) (D) [illegible] 9-10-12	N Williamson	—
4	[illegible]	Lord Lofty (14) [illegible] 8-10-12	L Cummins (3)	—
5	[illegible]	Salsong (23) (C) [illegible] 9-10-12	J Goldstein (5)	88
6	[illegible]	Skycab (16) (C) [illegible] 6-10-12	P Hide	●90
7	[illegible]	Take Cover (290) M Tompkins 7-10-12	A Maguire	—
8	[illegible]	Tel E Thon (16) Miss C Caroe 11-10-12	C Webb ★	85

Betting: 1-2 Skycab, 9-2 El Cordobes, 8-1 Take Cover, 10-1 Lead Vocalist, 12-1 Salsong.

3.20 WILLIAM YOUNGER (EAST ANGLIA) HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 4f £3,307 (8 declared)

1	[illegible]	Bartholomew Fair (16) (C) C Dwyer 7-11-10	R Farrant	●90
2	[illegible]	Alzoomo (23) (D) [illegible] 6-11-9	A Maguire	—
3	[illegible]	Burn Out (27) [illegible] 6-11-8	L Aspell	88
4	[illegible]	Antiguan Flyer (14) (C) G Prodromou 9-11-8	J Goldstein (5)	88
5	30-PF6	Monks Soham (30) (B) [illegible] 10-11-6	R Thornton	88
6	[illegible]	Clarresman (135) C Dwyer 6-11-6	P Hide	—
7	[illegible]	Durabrattin (22) D Thom 5-10-4	R Massey ★	88
8	[illegible]	Stone Ridge (18) J Pearce 6-10-0	N Williamson	87

Betting: 2-1 Burn Out, 7-2 Bartholomew Fair, Antiguan Flyer, 5-1 Stone Ridge, 12-1 Clarresman, 14-1 Durabrattin.

Lingfield Jackpot card

	KEN OLIVER	TOP FORM
12.40	Gadge	Friendly Brave
1.10	Buona Sera	Buona Sera
1.40	Druridge Bay	Glastonbury
2.10	Night City	Isabella Gonzaga (nb)
2.40	Karefree Katie	Mariana
3.10	Flying Officer	Flying Officer
3.40	Churchill's Shadow	Present 'n Correct

All-weather, Equitrack, left-handed course laid out inside turf track and only 1¼m round. No straight sprint track.
Going: Standard. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Seven-day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.10 Sing For Rosie. **Visored:** None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

12.40 LINGFIELD PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE HANDICAP (Div I)
6f £2,085 (11 declared)

101 (4)	562044	Friendly Brave (20) (C) (D) (BF) Miss G Kelleway 8-9-13	W Ryan ★	●90
102 (8)	001004	Gadge (25) (C) (D) A Bailey 7-9-12	J Bosley (7)	89
103 (6)	040406	Mike's Double (5) (D) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-9	R Price ★	84
104 (11)	020000	Acid Test (5) (D) M A Buckley 3-9-8	S Copp (5)	83
105 (2)	205005	Kosevo (6) D Shaw 4-9-7	T Sprake ★	86
106 (7)	04000	Mac's Dream (77) A Carroll 3-9-0	M Tebbutt	86
107 (9)	024000	Chi-Lin (24) P Butler 3-8-12	S Drowne	86
108 (1)	600500	Pieta Gaz (12) (CD) R O'Sullivan 5-8-11	S Whitworth	83
109 (3)	6/0004	Palacegate Gold (82) (CD) J Long 9-8-8	N Carlisle	87
110 (10)	550000	Justinianus (20) (CD) J Bridger 6-8-5	G Bardwell	85
111 (5)	000060	Kid Ory (115) (D) D Chapman 7-7-13	T Williams ★	84

Betting: 4-1 Gadge, 9-2 Friendly Brave, Kosevo, Palacegate Gold, 13-2 Mike's Double, 10-1 Chi-Lin, Justinianus.

1.10 RACE SPONSORSHIP FOR EVERYONE HANDICAP 2YO
7f £2,779 (6 declared)

201 (3)	34021	Buona Sera (10) (CD) W Muir 9-7	T Sprake	●90
202 (2)	314000	David (12) Miss G Kelleway 7-13	T Williams	87
203 (4)	44003	Cedar Wells (20) G Lewis 7-12	N Carlisle	88
204 (1)	0106	Helen's Stardust (12) W Muir 7-10	P Doe (5)	88
205 (5)	06002	Oh So Grand (16) R Cowell 7-10	Dale Gibson ★	88
206 (6)	000	Russian Velvet (24) M Quinn 7-10	C Cogan (7)	84

Betting: 2-1 Buona Sera, 9-4 Oh So Grand, 11-2 David, 13-2 Helen's Stardust, 7-1 Cedar Wells, 10-1 Russian Velvet.

1.40 LINGFIELD RACEGOERS CLUB SELLING STAKES 2YO
1m £1,737 (11 declared)

301 (6)	023016	Glastonbury (10) (C) P Howling 9-2	S Whitworth	●90
302 (8)	020622	Druridge Bay (14) M Channon 8-11	A Culhane	83
303 (4)	215600	Lamont (51) Mrs L Stubbs 8-11	M Tebbutt	86
304 (3)	000024	Miss Tika (14) P Evans 8-11	T G McLaughlin ★	87
305 (5)	00	Adorable (40) S Dow 8-6	P Doe (5)	84
306 (9)	304003	Crash Call Lady (14) C Allen 8-6	N Carlisle ★	86
307 (11)	32240	Dream On Me (10) G L Moore 8-6	J Fanning	85
308 (10)	0200	Ebony (24) B McMath 8-6	A Clark	83
309 (1)	444308	Patsys Forum (29) M Blanshard 8-6	C Rutter	86
310 (2)	006305	Simpson's Domain (20) J S Moore 8-6	C Cogan (7)	85
311 (7)	04	Synth (14) G Lewis 8-6	N Day	89

Betting: 4-1 Glastonbury, 9-2 Dream On Me, 11-2 Druridge Bay, 6-1 Synth, 7-1 Crash Call Lady, 8-1 Lamont, Miss Tika.

2.10 49'S HANDICAP (SHOWCASE AND TRIFECTA RACE)
1m 4f £7,003 (12 declared)

401 (11)	266632	Opera Buff (8) (CD) Miss G Kelleway 7-10-0	P Fredericks (7)	●90
402 (3)	100110	Night City (32) (CD) K Burke 7-9-11	D Sweeney	88
403 (3)	1-00-0	Meteor Strike (206) Mrs A Perrett 4-9-9	T Sprake	84
404 (2)	[illegible]	Toujours Riviera (13) (CD) J Pearce 8-9-8	G Bardwell	83
405 (5)	614535	Take A Turn (J37) Miss G Kelleway 3-9-5	W Ryan	87
406 (6)	-00010	Glow Forum (38) (CD) L Montague Hall 7-9-5	A Clark	88
407 (4)	034104	Quiet Arch (12) (CD) (BF) J O'Shea 5-9-5	C Cogan (7)	87
408 (1)	002104	Statajack (10) (C) (D) D Elsworth 10-8-13	P Goode (7) ★	88
409 (1?)	500132	Isabella Gonzaga (21) (D) R Cowell 4-8-11	A Culhane	●90
410 (?)	-20050	Kinnescash (J16) (D) P Bowen 5-8-11	S Whitworth	88
411 (8)	2504-5	Slip Jig (10) (CD) F Butler 5-8-11	J P Spencer (3)	88
412 (10)	05000U	Silversmith (12) S Dow 3-7-10	P Doe (5)	82

Best early-morning prices: 5-1 Night City (C), 11-2 Isabella Gonzaga (C, L), 6-1 Kinnescash (H, T), Slip Jig (H, T), 8-1 Take A Turn (H, L), 9-1 Opera Buff (L), 10-1 Toujours Riviera (H), Glow Forum (H, L), Statajack (C, L, T), 11-1 Quiet Arch (C, H), 33-1 Meteor Strike (general), 50-1 Silversmith (C, H, L)
● C (Coral), H (Hill's), L (Ladbrokes), T (Tote).

2.40 TRACKSIDE CLUB FILLIES' HANDICAP
1m £2,859 (12 declared)

501 (?)	[illegible]	Karefree Katie (23) (BF) M Johnston 3-9-10	G Carter	87
502 (5)	[illegible]	Gildersleve (96) N Henn 3-9-9	S Whitworth	81
503 (1)	500005	Out Like Magic (28) [illegible] 3-9-6	Dane O'Neill	84
504 (?)	[illegible]	Over Keen (45) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-5	P Fredericks (7)	87
505 (4)	[illegible]	Zilina (12) [illegible] 3-9-5	A Clark	88
506 (1?)	[illegible]	Raspberry Sauce (12) (G) [illegible] 4-9-3	G Faulkner (3)	86
507 (?)	[illegible]	Mariana (47) T Clement 3-8-10	A Mackay	●90
508 (?)	[illegible]	Snowy Mantle (14) (D) J Sutcliffe 5-8-7	R Winston (3)	89
509 (10)	[illegible]	Silent Pride (13) G L Moore 3-8-6	C Rutter	88
510 (?)	[illegible]	Elleysanta (14) [illegible] 4-8-1	N Carlisle ★	82
511 (5)	[illegible]	Wild Nettle (12) J Fox 4-8-1	Declan O'Shea	84
512 (11)	[illegible]	Noble Water (72) [illegible] 3-7-13	G Bardwell	79

Betting: [illegible] Mariana, [illegible] Snowy Mantle, Silent Pride, 6-1 Zilina, Wild Nettle, 10-1 Karefree Katie, Over Keen, Raspberry Sauce, 12-1 Others.

3.10 BOOK A BOX FOR JANUARY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
6f £2,085 (12 declared)

601 (?)	[illegible]	Flying Officer (6) (BF) M Fetherston-Godley 9-0	C Rutter	●90
602 (?)	[illegible]	Keen Hands (6) Mrs N Macauley 9-0	R Price	88
603 (11)	[illegible]	Xsynna (72) S C Williams 9-0	Dane O'Neill	79
604 (?)	[illegible]	Amelesa (29) [illegible] 8-9	J P Spencer (3)	88
605 (1?)	[illegible]	Debbie's Hope (21) [illegible] 8-9	C Lowther	86
606 (?)	[illegible]	Greenfinch Lady (16) [illegible] 8-9	G Faulkner (3)	87
607 (?)	[illegible]	Lady Caroline (16) M Johnston 8-9	J Fanning	88
608 (?)		La Piazza [illegible] 8-9	W Ryan	—
609 (1?)	[illegible]	Light Breeze (51) [illegible] 8-9	Candy Morris	87
610 (?)	[illegible]	Lovely Island (13) P Harris-Haughton 8-9	S Whitworth	88
611 (?)	[illegible]	Sing For Rosie (32) [illegible] 8-9	A Clark ★	78
612 (?)	[illegible]	Tick N Pick (24) [illegible] 8-9	G Carter	82

Betting: [illegible] Flying Officer, 4-1 Amelesa, Lady Caroline, 11-2 Greenfinch Lady, 8-1 Light Breeze, 14-1 La Piazza, [illegible] Debbie's Hope.

3.40 LINGFIELD PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE HANDICAP (Div 2)
6f £2,085 (10 declared)

1 (?)	[illegible]	Do-Well (25) [illegible] 3-9-13	A Clark ★	88
2 (?)	[illegible]	Churchill's Shadow (28) (C) B Pearce 4-9-10	C Lowther	89
3 (10)	[illegible]	Take Care (79) [illegible] 3-9-4	Dale Gibson	83
4 (5)	[illegible]	Night Auction (24) (D) [illegible] 3-9-4	G Faulkner (3)	82
5 (?)	[illegible]	Sizzling (119) (D) [illegible] 6-9-4	Dane O'Neill	88
6 (?)	[illegible]	Mukarrab (38) [illegible] 4-9-12	A Culhane	85
7 (?)	[illegible]	Present 'n Correct (6) (C) J Bridger 5-8-12	S Drowne	●90
8 (?)	[illegible]	Tachycardia (32) (CD) [illegible] 6-8-10	N Carlisle	81
9 (?)	[illegible]	Adiepour (51) [illegible] 4-8-5	J P Spencer (3) ★	88
10 (?)	[illegible]	Dancing Jack (13) (C) [illegible]	G Bardwell	83

Betting: 11-4 Churchill's Shadow, [illegible] Present 'n Correct, 5-1 Sizzling, Mukarrab, 8-1 Do-Well, Take Care, Night Auction.

صكذا من الاصل

International Rugby Union

England 13 South Africa 7

England's power and the glory

Robert Armstrong sees Matt Dawson kick-start World Cup ambitions as Boks prove mortal



Mission accomplished . . . Lawrence Dallaglio and Neil Back (No.7) share England's joy and relief at putting the Springboks to flight DAVID ROGERS

IT WAS a long time in the melting pot but England's first victory over a major southern hemisphere side since the 1995 World Cup was as sweet and satisfying as they come. Lawrence Dallaglio's battling players could not have chosen a more auspicious occasion on which to confound their critics: stopping the world champions from setting a new Test record of 18 consecutive wins and in doing so reasserting their own power and pride of performance.

The result was paramount. After a number of tantalising near-misses against the elite nations, England desperately needed to finish in credit. That they did so with an injury-ravaged side — three players finished on the treatment table — speaks volumes for their sheer guts and self-belief. As Dallaglio pointed out: "We went up another level and everyone did his country proud. Today was all about winning."

Never mind that this was one of the most error-ridden Tests in recent memory, England dogged it out and seized their scoring chances with a cold-eyed opportunism that has been missing this year. Significantly, two of last year's conquering Lions, Jeremy Guscott and Matt Dawson, monopolised the scoring: their joy at the end unconfined.

True to form, England put their fans on the rack several times, back-pedalling furiously when kicks were charged down by the Springboks and contriving to give away naive penalties that might have meant their downfall.

When there was still time to save the match, South Africa's full-back Percy Montgomery missed a simple short-range penalty and, as the second ticked away, Stefan Terblanche was denied a clear run to the posts only when Dan Luger charged down Andre Snyman's pass.

On such slender margins are reputations made and historic wins created. England, though, deserved to see off the Springboks because their hunger was greater, their tactics sharper and their organisation, under fierce pressure, ultimately more durable.

Victory will ensure that the coach Clive Woodward takes England into next year's World Cup. Searching questions had been asked of his stewardship, particularly over team selection which seemed arbitrary at times. However, his insistence on unflinching honesty over individual shortcomings finally bore fruit, notably in the case of the fly-half Mike Catt, who curbed his carelessness and played probably his most composed England game.

Woodward's commitment to a version of total rugby was also seen to positive effect especially in attack where England showed the patience needed to continue working the ball through successive phases. The support runners achieved a prodigious work-rate that meant the ball carrier was rarely overwhelmed.

Beating the Springboks may prove a watershed for England, who badly needed the injection of confidence that only comes with taking a distinguished scalp. Their next major challenge will be on March 20 at home to France, who promise once again to be their most serious rivals, notwithstanding recent improvement in Wales and Ireland under the guidance of New Zealand coaches. Five Nations rugby could be about to emerge from the dark ages.

When asked whether he believed a substantial gap in quality remained between northern and southern hemisphere rugby, Woodward hedged his bets. "If there is a gulf it has more to do with the structure of our game than the ability of the players," he said, returning to a familiar source of complaint. "I don't think we'd lose many games if we operated on a level playing field; man for man we can achieve what they do. I've absolutely no doubt we have the players with the talent to succeed."

On the evidence of their Tests against South Africa and Australia, who won by one point, England have forwards such as Dallaglio, Martin Johnson, Tim Rodber and Richard Cockerill who can stand toe to toe with any pack in the world. However, the jury is still out on the backs who, Guscott and Dawson apart, tend to blow hot and cold. Injuries permitting, it would help in developing greater cohesion if men such as Luger, Catt and the full-back Nick Beal, who came good after a dodgy start, were given extended runs.

As for the Springboks, they may find it a good deal harder next year to reach the dizzy heights of 1998, their annus mirabilis, when they won the Tri-Nations series for the first time and averaged five tries a game through 18 Tests.

Nick Mallett, their impressive coach, believes the All Blacks will move on from last summer's five Test defeats and re-emerge as the biggest threat to South Africa's hopes of retaining the world title. It should be noted, though, that England could meet the Springboks in a World Cup quarter-final at Twickenham.

For the moment England have shrugged off their reputation as dangerous floaters who fail to deliver. Their supporters can wind back the video tape and re-run the try of their dreams; a high cross-kick by Catt finds Luger leaping above Terblanche to lay off the ball to Guscott who glides away from two tackles to put England back on terms. Beal, for his part, will prefer to forget the early missed tackle that allowed the left-wing Pieter Rossouw to put the Springboks in front.

Fast forward to a final quarter of unrelenting tension and a denouement that defied the odds. Dawson, with the easy grace of a Michael Lynagh, hammered home two penalty goals for ruck offences from 30 and 40 metres. Then England hung on by their fingernails through five minutes of stoppage time for a victory that Dawson described as "right up there with the Lions winning in South Africa". No one is going to argue the point with the toast of Twickenham.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Guscott. Conversions: Dawson. Penalties: Dawson 2. **South Africa:** Try: Rossouw. Conversion: Montgomery.
ENGLAND: Beal (Northampton); Underwood (Newcastle; Rees, Sale, 8min; Healey, Leicester, 22), De Glanville (Bath; Kluq, Wasps, 59), Guscott (Bath), Luger (Harlequins); Catt (Bath), Dawson (Northampton); Leonard (Harlequins), Cockerill, Garforth, Johnson (all Leicester), Rodber (Northampton; Grewcock, Saracens, 67), Dallaglio (Wasps, capt), Back (Leicester), Hill (Saracens).
SOUTH AFRICA: Montgomery (W Province); Terblanche (Boland), Snyman (Blue Bulls), Stewart, Rossouw (both W Province); Hoolbell (Natal), Van der Westhuizen (Blue Bulls; Swanepoel, Free State, 59), Kempson (Natal), Dalton (Golden Lions), Garvey (Natal; Le Roux, Natal, 59), Otto (Blue Bulls), Andrews (Natal; Venter, Free State, 46), Strydom (Free State), Skinstad (W Province), Teichmann (Natal, capt).
Referee: P O Brien (New Zealand).

Woodward's record

P	W	D	L	F	A
16	6	2	8	395	414

1997

v Australia, Twickenham	15–15
v New Zealand, Old Trafford	8–25
v South Africa, Twickenham	11–29
v New Zealand, Twickenham	26–26

1998

Five Nations	
v France, Stade de France	17–24
v Wales, Twickenham	60–26
v Scotland, Murrayfield	34–20
v Ireland, Twickenham	35–17
Tour	
v Australia, Brisbane	0–76
v New Zealand, Dunedin	22–64
v New Zealand, Auckland	10–40
v South Africa, Cape Town	0–18
World Cup qualifiers	
v Netherlands, Huddersfield	110–0
v Italy, Huddersfield	23–15
Test matches	
v Australia, Twickenham	11–12
v South Africa, Twickenham	13–7

1999

Five Nations fixtures
February 20 v Scotland, Twickenham
March 6 v Ireland, Dublin
March 20 v France, Twickenham
April 11 v Wales, Wembley



World Cup qualifier
Scotland 85
Spain 3

Logan revels in greater depth

Robert Kitson at Murrayfield sees Jim Telfer's men display a sharp cutting edge

THERE was little dancing in the streets of Edinburgh on Saturday, except by those prepared to risk hypothermia. But the last time Scotland won two successive games at Murrayfield was prior to the 1995 World Cup and 26 tries inside eight days meant even the scoreline from Twickenham was greeted with benign tolerance.

No matter that Spain is to rugby what Arbroath is to bull fighting. Winning is a habit the Scots need to recapture quickly if their sport is not to be fatally gored by bull-headed local officialdom and there were further signs in this latest romp of the squad picking up their heels.

Another 13 tries decorated a crisper and more even performance than the 85–11 destruction of Portugal with Kenny Logan, like a starving man in a tapas bar, helping himself to an indecent number of portions. It is more than 111 years since a Scot last scored five tries in an international and, even though the non-cap status of the Spanish game will deprive him of bold print status in the record-books, the Wasps winger was buoyant.

"When was the last time Scotland had depth like this?" he asked, pointing to the choice now available to Jim Telfer in the back-row, midfield and at full-back. "We're getting there. We're still underdogs for the Five Nations but we're turning the corner." As for himself, a stone lighter than 12 months ago and with his Wasps contract up in March, his own stock is rising at the right time.

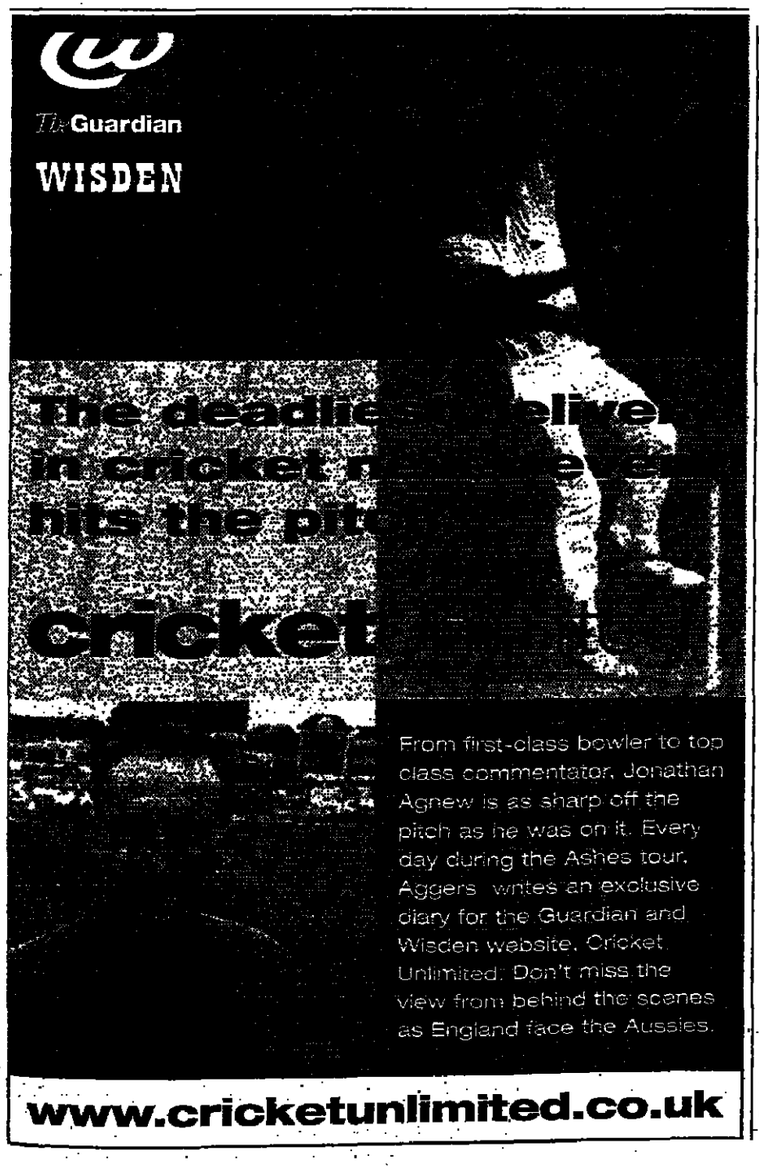
For his Scottish-based team-mates, though, maintaining their momentum between now and their opening Five Nations game against Wales on February 6 at Murrayfield will be tougher. Apart from contrived "challenge" games against Welsh clubs in January, they have little other meaningful rugby. As Finlay Calder growled last week: "We'll have the married versus the unmarried next."

At least the boil of public disillusionment appears to have been lanced and in the Leslie brothers Telfer has two valuable hard-edged instruments. "Show me someone who does not rate either of the Leslies and I'll show you a Welshman with sound dress sense," noted their fellow New Zealander Sean Lineen.

Both scored tries in the first quarter and John Leslie's interpassing with Gregor Townsend for the latter's first-half score justified the cautious optimism of Scotland's backs' coach John Rutherford, who will pray a loophole can be found to delay Leslie's contractual obligations to a Japanese club in March. Logan, showing pace and strength, scored four of his tries between the 42nd and 75th minutes and Duncan Hodge, another previously underused asset, landed 10 of his 13 conversion attempts.

As for Spain, World Cup qualification will now concentrate a few minds. "We didn't defend well . . . we knew Scotland would be better than us but we missed too many tackles," confessed their coach Alfonso Feijoo. Some feel he is engaged in a hopeless cause. But, then again, think of all those potential away weekends to Barcelona or Madrid. Let's hear it for the Seven Nations, a magnificent concept to soften the wintry chill.

SCORERS: Scotland: Tries: Logan 5, J Leslie, M Leslie, Smith, Rudpath, Townsend, C Murray, Weir, Longstaff. Conversions: Hodge 10. **Spain:** Penalties: Kovalenko.
SCOTLAND: Townsend (Brive); C Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), Mayer (Edinburgh Reivers; Tait, Edinburgh Reivers, 72min), J Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), Logan (Wasps; Longstaff, Glasgow Caledonians, 77); Hodge, Redpath (capt, both Edinburgh Reivers); Smith, Bulloch, Anderson (all Glasgow Caledonians), Murray (Bedford; Grimes, Glasgow Caledonians, 68), Weir (Newcastle), Stanger, M Leslie (both Edinburgh Reivers), Peters (Bath).
SPAIN: Freshilla; Alberto Socias, Benito (Pipol, 70), Diez (Rosslde, 40), Garcia (Antonio Socias, 65); Kovalenko, Gallastegui (Torres-Morata, 65); Campo (Torres, 66), De la Calle, Alonso, Tejerina (Zarrapa, 77), Martinez, Blale (capt, Santo, 55), Mata, Asterlos.
Referee: S Young (Australia).



Anglo-Welsh Friendly: Swansea 31 Cardiff 15

Fists fly among brothers in arms

Paul Rees

THERE was little friendly fire in this first meeting of the two Welsh rebels since Cardiff and Swansea opted out of the Premier Division to play the top English clubs. Matches between them have tended to be fractious, ill-tempered affairs in recent years and Saturday's encounter was no exception, even though the two clubs claim to be brothers in arms.

Fists flew from the first whistle but "Fearless" Fred Howard was in benevolent mood. The referee who made his name pointing towards international dressing-rooms satisfied himself with a smile and a general warning, even though players on both sides were determined to settle personal differences by a knock-out rather than on points.

Howard did flourish his white card on three occasions but the culprits were sent to cool down for trying to kill the ball rather than an opponent. His method worked, though, as the game gradually evolved from manhandling to ball-handling.

Then Swansea easily came out on top. They won the battle of the all-international front rows, their back row had more pace and fluency and Scott Gibbs and Mark Taylor were irresistible.

The Swansea coach John Plumtree was unhappy that his players did not meet fire with water. "I told them to forget about their personal battles and concentrate on rugby, but the first 15 minutes were frustrating because of all the fighting that was going on. When we settled down, we played some good stuff."

The match was billed as the unofficial championship of Wales and was played on the same day as the meeting of the Premier Division's top clubs, Llanelli and Pontypridd.

The main difference between the games was the size of the crowds: 9,000 at St Helen's, 3,500 at Llanelli. Otherwise both were largely triumphs of endeavour over enterprise with indiscipline rife. Llanelli won 24–16 after Byron Hayward, making his debut for the Scarlets, landed eight out of 10 penalty attempts. Pontypridd had their Wales No. 8 Dale McIntosh sent off after he had indulged in Tongan-style tackling all night.

Swansea are a notch above the other three. Cardiff are powerful but predictable and were unable to match the inter-play between Swansea's forwards and backs which led to three of their four tries.

The Welsh Rugby Union wants Cardiff and Swansea to become two of four super clubs it plans to fund next season, but it is likely to split them if proposals for a British League next season are accepted by the Allied Dunbar clubs.

One division would blend 10 English and two Welsh clubs while the other would be an English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish cocktail. Nominally equal, the focal point would be the predominantly English division. The WRU would place Cardiff among their new allies, along with Llanelli or Pontypridd, even though Cardiff have been at war with the Union for two years.

The WRU argues that it has always known where Cardiff have been coming from whereas Swansea deserted at the 11th hour. The Union's stance shows that one division would clearly be more equal than the other.

Hockey

Canterbury live to tell tale

Pat Rowley

CANTERBURY, the new team at the top of the English League, again proved themselves great escape artists. After twice falling four goals behind at Bournville, they were indebted to their junior international David Mathews, who scored five times in a 6–5 victory.

In celebratory mood yesterday, Canterbury swept into the last 16 of the EHA Cup with an 8-1 victory against Pelicans. Stuart Humphries, like Mathews an England prospect, scored a hat-trick and Sean Kerly, the former Olympic hero, weighed in with two goals.

Old Cranleighans, orchestrated by Jon Rees, came from two down to beat Bournville 4-2. Mark Smith scored twice and Don Williams landed the goal-of-the-game. Chelmsford of the National League went down to regional opposition; they were beaten 3-2 by Wimbledon after extra-time.

The cup holders of the men's and women's competition, Cannock and Clifton Ladies, had their ties postponed. In the women's event, Woking were inspired by Kath James in their 4-3 win against Sutton, with Donna Cox scoring twice.

Basketball

Sharks sharpen their teeth

Rob Dugdale

THE Sheffield Sharks' defence of the Uni-Ball Trophy may have hit a hitch on Friday night with a surprise one-point defeat at home to Leicester, but they were back on track with a vengeance 24 hours later, winning 103–83 at Thames Valley Tigers.

Neville Austin contributed 10 points to the Thames Valley total despite having spent most of last week recovering from a respiratory infection.

Leicester were soundly beaten 103–82 at home by Manchester. Jason Swaine, left out of the England team for the recent European Championship qualifiers, scored 23 points.

Eric Burks, last season's Player of the Year, made an early exit from the Greater London Leopards' game at Newcastle when he needed hospital treatment to a mouth wound sustained in the first quarter. In his absence, Leopards lost 86–80.

Milton Keynes Lions slid to their 10th defeat in 11 starts when four players fouled out in the last quarter of the home game against Chester.

In the weekend's lone league game, London Towers inflicted an 11th successive defeat on Worthing.

Cricket

Selfless Headley presses his Test claim

Mike Selvey in Melbourne detects a subtle change of pace in England's pecking order

WHEN an England cricketer, competing hard for a place in the team for the second Test, corners a journalist and over a drink spends quarter of an hour explaining why another player and not he should be in the side, then the team ethic could not be much stronger. Dean Headley was right about Alex Tudor. His mistake though was not pushing himself as well: both should have been playing in Perth.

Unless the selectors revert to their old policy of picking donkeys for derbies, then Tudor made enough impact on that match and the Australians to be part of the fixtures and fittings for the foreseeable future. But should four pace bowlers be required in Adelaide come Friday, the last place might well now go to Headley rather than Dominic Cork or Angus Fraser.

Cork, disappointing in Perth, is sitting out the current game against essentially a Victoria second XI — as are Darren Gough, Alan Mullally and Tudor — and Fraser went wicketless at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

Headley, however, bowled with passion, extracting bounce and movement from the MCG pitch, taking a pair of wickets in an opening spell of nine overs for 13 runs and finishing with two for 34.

By the close of the second of four days the Bushrangers, 87 for five at one point, had recovered to 177 for five, with Shawn Craig on 39 and Peter Roach unbeaten on 54. The other wickets went to Robert Croft, Ben Hollioake — in his first bowl of the tour — and one run out thanks to Headley's direct hit from mid-on.

It was a dour day's cricket, though. The tourists, 308 for five overnight and 356 for no further loss an hour into the day, with Mark Ramprakash and Graeme Hick both past half-centuries and going well, crashed to 373 all out for no better reason than this is the England team and they do it all the time.

Headley bowled from the Pavilion End towards a vast — and totally empty — Great Southern Stand that alone seats as many as Lord's and Trent Bridge combined. He removed the left-handed Matthew Mott, caught at the wicket without scoring, and then Graeme Vimpani, one of only three first-team regulars turning out for Victoria, thanks to a snappy low catch at first slip by Graham Thorpe that will have cleared up any doubts about his mobility.

For the first hour Ramprakash and Hick, picking up the relationship that materialised towards the end of the second Test, carried on in untroubled fashion, with Hick the more aggressive.

Ramprakash, making his runs come what may, had been at the crease for 4¼ hours in scoring 78 and looked set for his second century of the tour when Jason Bakker, a medium pacer, moved one away from his defensive prod and found the edge to give Roach a straightforward catch behind.

Ramprakash and Hick, who was finally — and unluckily — lbw for 67, had added 109 for the sixth wicket following Saturday's fifth-wicket partnership of 112 between Ramprakash and Alec Stewart. The England captain ended his poor run of form with 126, his second century for England in Australia and only his second in all first-class cricket this year.

There was a sharper edge to the fielding yesterday, which will have pleased not least the England coach David Lloyd. Since he took on the job Lloyd has never gained a reputation as a shrinking violet when it comes to defending his players.

So yesterday, when more criticism was thrown towards the squad, this time by the former Australian batsman Dean Jones, he felt obliged to respond. Jones, working for a television station, had watched England's pre-match training and commented that in view of the number of catches they had dropped — and that, in his opinion, was the essential difference between the sides — they might be more usefully employed in fielding practice.

In the wake of his much-publicised spat with Geoff Boycott at The Oval last summer, also regarding criticism of his team, Lloyd's subsequent excursion to the commentary position was strictly non-confrontational this time.

He explained to Jones, once he had come off air, that England had in fact been at the ground since 8.30am, two hours before the start of play, and had done nothing but practise fielding. It was all very amicable, and not much of an item to brighten a slow news day.

● Ali Bacher insisted yesterday that a member of South Africa's Test squad accused of rape has been framed. "I am absolutely certain he is innocent, for reasons that I do not want to go into," said the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

A 21-year-old woman is believed to have made the complaint in East London against the player, who has not been named or charged. Bacher said the allegations would "in no way" affect the selection process for the second Test against West Indies in Port Elizabeth on Thursday.

ENGLAND
First Innings

M A Atherton c Craig b Inness	46
J P Crawley c Roach b Williams	8
N Hussain c Amberger b Gilbert	5
*†A J Stewart run out	126
G P Thorpe c Roach b Dawson	19
M R Ramprakash c Roach b Bakker	78
G A Hick lbw b Gilbert	67
B C Hollioake lbw b Bakker	5
R D B Croft not out	0
D W Headley c Williams b Bakker	3
A R C Fraser c Williams b Davison	8
Extras (lb5, w1, nb1)	8
Total (128 overs)	373

Fall of wickets: 25, 33, 93, 135, 247, 356, 362, 362, 365.
Bowlings: Williams 27–7–84–1; Gilbert 29–7–63–2; Inness 31–10–95–1; Bakker 20–6–45–3; Davison 19–3–77–2; Craig 2–0–3–0.

VICTORIA
First Innings

J L Amberger run out	19
M P Mott c Stewart b Headley	0
G R Vimpani c Thorpe b Headley	11
*B J Hodge lbw b Hollioake	4
S A J Craig not out	39
J R Bakker c Headley b Croft	29
†P J Roach not out	54
Extras (lb4, nb17)	21
Total (for 5, 69 overs)	177

Fall of wickets: 4, 24, 43, 43, 87.
To bat: B A Williams, A S Gilbert, M W H Inness, J M Davison.
Bowlings: Headley 17–2–34–2; Fraser 15–5–30–0; Hollioake 11–0–43–1; Croft 21–4–48–1; Ramprakash 5–2–18–0.
Umpires: T A Prue, G T D Morrow.



Safely home . . . Robert Croft gets agitated but the Shawn Craig-Peter Roach partnership survives a direct hit BEN CURTIS

Golf

All woe for Westwood

Martin Gillingham in Sun City

LEE WESTWOOD's dream of rounding a remarkable year off by winning the Million Dollar Challenge was shattered here yesterday when he faded to a share of fourth place behind the winner, Nick Price.

It was Price's third victory at the tournament since 1993 when he set a record score of 264 at 24 under par. His 72-hole total this time was nine shots worse than that. But this was a victory made sweeter by his triumph in an exhausting sudden-death play-off against the world No. 1 Tiger Woods which came to an end when Price holed out for a birdie from nine feet at the fifth extra hole.

Twice in the play-off Woods missed putts from less than 20 feet, uphill and with a gentle right-to-left break, that would have sealed it. "In order to beat a calibre player like Nick you have to make those putts and I didn't," Woods said.

Three hours earlier, Price had seemed to be coasting to victory. Despite having started the final day four shots behind Westwood, a run of six straight birdies from the ninth took him into a three-shot lead. But almost immediately the lead was reduced to two when a poor drive cost Price a bogey at the par-four 15th.

Price and Woods were partnered for the final day and when they stood together on the 17th tee the American knew he would probably have to finish birdie-birdie to take it into a play-off. On the 17th, Woods made a birdie 3 to Price's four but when Woods missed the final green to the right, the game had seemed to be up.

Price two putted for his par four on the 18th leaving Woods needing to hole a delicate chip from seven yards to tie. "I hit it right on the line I wanted to," Wood said. "It was just a question of whether or not it had enough pace." Thankfully for Woods it did. "Tiger has the knack of doing the big thing at the right time," Price said. "I wasn't surprised in the least when he chipped in." Westwood's one over par 73 was the worst score of the day by any of the 12-man field and came at the end of a week when he had played his best golf of the year.

Westwood's woes started on the first hole when his 6-iron approach overshot the green. "It was all over the flag from the moment I hit it and the lie I got after it was the worst you could imagine," Westwood said.

He took three more to get down from there and carded his first dropped shot since the same hole on Friday. In between times, Westwood had played 35 holes in 14 under par. But unlike Friday he was unable to bounce back from the disappointment of an opening bogey.

In the second round he had gone on to birdie the par five 2nd. This time, however, he missed from eight feet for his four at the second hole and when he got another chance to redeem himself on the short 4th he made a complete hash of it. Not only did he miss the birdie putt from 15 feet but the one back from two feet for par as well.

Bad luck probably cost Westwood a shot at the 5th when an untimely gust of wind carried a perfectly struck nine-iron over the top of the flag and into the back fringe from where a deft chip was required to save par. That was the moment when it dawned on Westwood that it was not going to be his day. "I didn't get a break all day," he said.

The compensation for Westwood was still fairly substantial. His share of the fourth place with Mark O'Meara, who too had led during the final round, was $150,000 (£93,000). "I'm a bit disappointed with the way it went but you can't have the luck all the time," Westwood said.

Rattled Faldo left by Chalmers

David Davies in Adelaide sees the Englishman upset by tabloid 'trash'

GREG CHALMERS, 25th in Europe this season, came closest to beating par over the Royal Adelaide course and duly won the Australian Open yesterday. His level-par total of 288 was good enough to beat Stuart Appleby and Peter Senior by one shot, with Nick Faldo three adrift and joint fourth.

Chalmers won £72,000 but more importantly boosted his confidence for an assault on the US Tour next year. He became the first left-hander to take the title since the amateur Claude Felstead won at Royal Melbourne in 1909.

The Australian, who had a chance for a 59 in the English Open at Hanbury Manor but "slumped" to a 61, leaped into the lead with three birdies in his first four holes yesterday, and thereafter led by two or more shots until he bogeyed the last. That left Appleby needing a birdie for a play-off, but his putt to tie was never on line.

Faldo felt sufficiently encouraged by his performance to say: "I'm definitely back. It's been a great week and I'm coming up with the pressure shots again." But he was again angry about his treatment in the tabloid press. He feels that, as a single man, he is entitled to have girlfriends and not be portrayed as a "love rat".

He said yesterday: "I haven't said one word to the press, not one word, and Valerie [his new girlfriend] has not said a word either. They've phoned up and I've put the phone down. I didn't even say 'no comment' and yet there are quotes from both of us.

"How can that happen? What recourse do we have if they make up quotes? The papers are just trash when they make things up."

For Faldo to have any influence on golfing matters here he had to exert pressure early. On Saturday he had started with three successive birdies; yesterday he was four shots worse over the same stretch and, from being one behind Appleby at the start of the day, he was quickly four behind Chalmers, who had birdies on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

Faldo also birdied the 4th but the feeling it was not to be his day quickened at the 6th, a difficult enough hole even without missing from inside two feet, as the Englishman did. From there on, in the easiest conditions of the week, Faldo went into par mode.

The spell was broken at the 15th, a par-four verging on the impossible. It is 486 yards long, played into the prevailing wind and dog-legged so that the longest drives are almost certain to finish in sand or long grass.

Earlier the hole had been birdied by the Warwickshire golfer Steve Webster, who had to hole an eight-iron shot from 118 yards. Faldo was to birdie it too, holing a huge putt from just off the green, which produced a mock bow to the crowds. It moved the Englishman to joint fourth with Robert Allenby at three-over par, 291, and completed what he felt was, on the course at least, a good week.

"The tip from Norman von Nida was probably the best I've ever had," said Faldo, who had been advised by the 85-year-old Australian to grip the club as lightly as he could with the left hand.

"It's cured my number one fault for ever; now I can get a lot better turn with the legs. My ball-striking has improved dramatically. I'm coming up with the pressure shots now and my concentration has improved."

Faldo, 66th in the world rankings, hopes his fourth place in a tournament that included world-ranked golfers such as Fred Couples (11th), Greg Norman (17th) and John Huston (28th) will lift him at least into the top 64 who qualify for the first £3 million World Championship event next February.

But he is not leaving anything to chance and has entered the South African PGA and the South African Open next January in a search for further ranking points.

Squash

Power gets unbraced to foil Nicol

Richard Jago in Doha

A SMALL but significant hint might have warned Peter Nicol that he would have to wait another year at least before becoming the first British man to win the world title.

For the first time since February, when Jonathon Power sustained a career-threatening injury, Nicol's arch-rival played without an ankle brace in Saturday's final. "I did it as a mental thing," said Power. "It worked brilliantly. The effect was really liberating."

The Canadian damaged the ankle while "doing the bonding thing" by playing basketball with his father John, who received a tearful phone call from the courtside after Power's 15–17, 15–7, 15–9, 15–10 success over the world No. 1.

Not only was the Scot denied a piece of squash history, it frustrated his attempt at what he called "his triple whammy" of adding the world title to his victories in the British Open and Commonwealth Games.

Tennis

Italy's din has a hollow finish

Stephen Bierley in Milan

THE shoulder injury to Italy's No. 1 Andrea Gaudenzi, so serious that it threatens to wreck the 25-year-old's career, was a stark reminder of just how fragile any country's challenge for the Davis Cup can be if it lacks depth.

Small wonder that Lawn Tennis Association officials, preparing for next April's Easter tie in Birmingham between Britain and the United States, quail at the thought of Tim Henman or Greg Rusedski damaging himself prior to that meeting.

An immense amount of effort will be put into marketing the event at the National Indoor Arena, the winners of which will go through to the quarter-finals against Australia or Zimbabwe.

"In the first three weeks we have sold between 35 and 40 per cent of the seats spread over the three days," the LTA's events and tournament manager Gavin Fletcher said yesterday. He was here to "get a feel for the stature of the event", which was sold out in two days. How he would love to bottle the theatrical and partizan support the Italians gave their team.

In recent years British fans have been urged from the courtside to get behind their team while being reminded, like small children, to be fair at all times. To hell with that. The Italians, armed with klaxons, drums and cymbals, even booed their own officals if a marginal line-call went Sweden's way. It was another reminder of just how sanitised tennis has become on the ATP Tour, emasculated by far too rigid codes of conduct.

The People's Sunday atmosphere of Wimbledon, when corporate indifference is gloriously shed to the great benefit of the game, must be recreated in Birmingham. Davis Cup tennis is not about being polite. It is the nearest many tennis players get to realising an oft cherished dream of being footballers and playing for a team.

The Swedes have developed a real passion for the competition. This was their third victory in five years and the seventh time they have won the Davis Cup since the Bjorn Borg-led victory in 1975.

Good coaching is surely the key. At the moment they do not have anybody of the quality of Borg, Mats Wilander or Stefan Edberg, but they continue to produce an array of fine players. In this respect it cannot be long before Spain, who have never won the Davis Cup, make amends.

The moment Gaudenzi, unable to serve, threw in the towel at 7–6, 6–7, 6–4, 3–6 and 6–6 in the final set of an error strewn but dramatic five-hour match against Sweden's Magnus Norman on Friday night, Italy's hopes of winning this trophy, which will celebrate its centenary next year, were virtually gone.

The scratch doubles team of Diego Nargiso and Davide Sanguinetti were no match for the battle-honed unit of Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti, making yesterday's return singles a formality. Magnus Gustafsson defeated Gianluca Pozzi 6–4, 6–2 before Nargiso prevented a whitewash by beating Norman 6–2, 6–3.

McEnroe ready to mix it with Graf

JOHN McENROE, competitive fires still alight at 39, beat France's Yannick Noah 7–5, 6–3 in the final of the Honda Challenge at Olympia yesterday, then hinted he might enter next year's Wimbledon mixed doubles with Steffi Graf.

"Steffi saw me in Geneva last week and suggested it," said McEnroe. "We could lose but it's not likely. She could pull me through, so I might be able to fit it in." McEnroe has already suggested playing doubles against Britain in the Davis Cup. "If he were French and I was still captain of the French team," said Noah, "he would play for ever."

Athletics

Takahashi sets marathon benchmark

Duncan Mackay

JAPAN'S Naoko Takahashi produced one of the best ever performances by a female marathon runner when she won the first gold medal of the Asian Games in Bangkok yesterday.

The 26-year-old ignored the heat and humidity of the Thai capital to cruise to victory in 2hr 21min 46sec, the fifth fastest time in history but the quickest achieved by a woman without the aid of pacemakers. Her performance, achieved in 28 degrees and 90 per cent humidity, was less than a minute behind the world best of 2:20.47 set by Kenya's Tegla Loroupe in Rotterdam last April.

The silver medal went to North Korea's Kim Chang, who was 2½ miles behind Takahashi and finished in a time of 2:34.54.

With the Japanese world champion Hiromi Suzuki out with a foot injury, Takahashi started as the favourite. But few expected her to improve on her personal best of 2:25.48, particularly as she had suffered a leg injury last August.

Takahashi, who trains at altitude in Colorado and took up marathon running only 18 months ago, had built up a lead of six minutes after 10 miles. She looked fresh and barely out of breath as she ran into the near-empty stadium and had enough energy to bow to officials crowded near the finish.

Many will consider Takahashi's time to be the true world record as, when the four runners ahead of her set their marks, they were all aided by pacemakers and enjoyed the help of motorcycle outriders, who paced them.

"This race changes marathon history. I believe she is the fastest runner in the world," said Shigeru So, the head of the Japanese federation's development programme for the Sydney Olympics.

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Ice Hockey

Dream debuts add to Panthers' cup delight

Vic Batchelder

NOTTINGHAM Panthers' gamble of bringing in two new Canadian forwards only 24 hours before the Benson & Hedges Cup final paid off with a hard-fought 2–1 victory over the Ayr Scottish Eagles at Sheffield.

After his team collected the trophy for a third time in five years, the Panthers' coach Mike Blaisdell said that his team's style made it easier: "I don't get the chalkboard out too often. It's an easy system to play, we basically get at teams and try to create havoc. If they had come in and had a big playbook to work with then they might have had trouble. But get that puck in and go hit someone, that's easy to play."

Both new arrivals, Darcy Loewen and Jason Weaver, did that well enough, despite having had only one practice session with their new teammates ahead of Saturday's final.

Loewen was at the centre of a contentious incident when he was penalised after delivering a 30th-minute check into the back of Jeff Hoad, sending Ayr's former Nottingham forward head-first into the rinkside barrier.

That caused a brief skirmish involving all the players on the ice at the time, and may well have contributed to the game-winning goal seven minutes later. With tempers still high, Eagles' Trevor Burgess was sin-binned and Panthers' Finnish winger Pekka Virta capitalised on the manpower advantage to drive home his second goal of the game.

His first, in the opening period, instantly equalled David St Pierre's goal which had put Ayr ahead 23 seconds earlier. Weaver, 26, gained his first point in Britain assisting Virta's winner, a good way to complete his move from the Michigan-based Grand Rapids Griffins in America's International Hockey League.

Weaver said that he had "no idea what I was getting myself into" when agreeing to join Panthers, although he seemed happy with the move. "I had a really good time out there, though it would probably have had a different impression had we lost." He admitted that making a debut for a new team in a cup final was "a first".

Ireland sweep clear of England

IRELAND took the PGA Team championship at Atalaya Park in Marbella yesterday when they finished with a score of 420, 12 under par, to beat England by five shots.

Their final winning scores in the best-two-of-three format were posted by Damien McGrane, with a three-under 69, and Robert Gilles, who had a 71. Spain finished third.

England's Paul Simpson (West Berkshire) shot a 67 for the lowest three-round total of 10 under par.

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FA Carling Premiership

	P	Home W	D	L	F	A	Away W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Aston Villa	15	5	2	1	14	9	3	4	0	9	4	10	30
Man Utd	15	6	2	0	21	8	2	3	2	10	9	14	29
Leeds	16	5	2	1	14	3	1	6	1	12	11	12	26
Arsenal	16	4	4	0	11	3	2	4	2	4	4	8	26
West Ham	16	4	3	1	12	9	3	2	3	8	11	0	26
Chelsea	14	4	3	0	11	4	2	4	1	11	9	9	25
Middlesbrough	16	3	5	0	14	7	2	4	2	12	12	7	24
Wimbledon	16	4	3	1	13	9	2	2	4	8	17	-5	23
Liverpool	16	3	3	2	15	10	3	1	4	12	11	6	22
Derby	16	2	4	2	6	6	3	3	2	9	8	1	22
Tottenham	16	4	2	2	13	13	2	2	4	8	11	-3	22
Leicester	16	4	2	2	11	8	1	4	3	7	10	0	21
Newcastle	16	4	2	2	13	10	1	3	4	8	11	0	20
Everton	16	1	5	2	2	5	3	2	3	8	10	-5	19
Sheff Wed	15	3	2	2	7	3	1	2	5	7	12	-1	16
Charlton	16	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	4	9	16	-2	16
Coventry	16	3	2	3	9	10	1	1	6	5	13	-9	15
Blackburn	16	3	1	4	10	10	0	2	6	5	14	-9	12
Nottm Forest	15	1	4	3	6	9	1	1	5	6	15	-12	11
Southampton	16	1	2	5	9	17	1	2	5	3	16	-21	10

Premiership results

Aston Villa (0) 1 Man Utd (0) 1
Joachin 55; Scholes 47
Aston Villa (3-5-2): Oakes; Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry; Watson, Hendrie, Taylor, Thompson, Wright; Joachim, Dublin. Subs not used: Rachel, Grayson, Ferraresi, Vassell, Lescott.
Man Utd (4-4-2): Schmeichel; Brown, Stam, G Neville, Irwin; Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Blomqvist (Giggs, h-t); Yorke, Cole (Butt, 89min). Subs not used: Van der Gouw, Johnsen, Sheringham.
Att: 39,241 Ref: M Riley (Leeds).

Blackburn (0) 1 Charlton (0) 0
Davies 75
Blackburn (4-4-2): Fettis; Croft, Henchoz, Dailly, Davidson; Johnson, McKinlay, Dunn (Broomes, 63min) Duff; Gallacher (Davies, 43), Blake. Subs not used: Marcolin, Williams, Taylor.
Charlton (4-4-2): Ilic; Mills, Rufus, Youds, Powell; Robinson, Redfearn, Kinsella, Mortimer (Newton, 32); Hunt, Mendonca (Jones, 87). Subs not used: Barness, Tiler, Royce.
Att: 22,568 Ref: G Poll (Tring).

Derby (0) 0 Arsenal (0) 0
Derby (3-5-2): Poom; Prior, Carbonari, Laursen; Delap, Bohinen, Eranio, (Harper, 72min), Powell, Dorigo; Sturridge, Wanchope. Subs not used: Hoult, Schnoor, Carsley, Elliott.
Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Bould, Vivas; Parlour, Grimandi, Garde (Ljungberg, 68), Overmars; Wreh (Boa Morte, 77) Anelka. Subs not used: Manninger, Upson, Caballero.
Att: 29,018 Ref: M Reed (Birmingham).

Everton (0) 0 Chelsea (0) 0
Everton (3-5-2): Myhre; Short, Materazzi, Dunne; Cleland, Grant, Hutchison, Collins, Ball; Cadamarteri, Bakayoko. Subs not used: Simonsen, Bilic, Dacourt, Ward, Branch.
Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey; Ferrer, Desailly, Leboeuf, Babayaro; Petrescu, Di Matteo, Wise, Poyet (Duberry, 83min); Zola (Goldbaek, 63), Flo. Subs not used: Hitchcock, Nicholls, Morris.
Att: 36,430 Ref: G Willard (West Sussex)

Leeds (1) 4 West Ham (0) 0
Bowyer 8, 81; Molenaar 66; Hasselbaink 79
Leeds (3-5-2): Robinson; Woodgate, Molenaar, Radebe; Harte, Kewell (Wijnhard, 80min), Hopkin, Bowyer, Haaland; Hasselbaink, Smith (McPhail, 85). Subs not used: Wetherall, Santos, Halle.
West Ham (3-5-2): Hislop; Pearce, Ruddock, Margas; Sinclair, Lampard, Lomas, Keller, Lazaridis (Moncur, 57); Wright, Hartson. Subs not used: Breacker, Potts, Forrest, Boylan.
Att: 36,320. Ref: J Winter (Stockton-on-Tees)

Leicester (0) 2 Southampton (0) 0
Heskey 61; Walsh 83
Leicester (4-4-2): Keller; Sinclair, Walsh (Taggart, 84min), Ullathorne, Guppy; Impey, Izzet, Lennon, Zagorakis (Savage, 74); Elliott, Heskey. Subs not used: Arphexad, Parker, Fenton.
Southampton (4-4-2): Jones; Hiley, Dodd, Lundekvam, Benali; Ripley (Beattie, 73), Oakley, Palmer, Hughes (Kachloul, 73); Le Tissier, Ostenstad. Subs not used: Moss, Bridge, Monkou.
Att: 18,423 Ref: D Gallagher (Banbury).

Middlesbro (1) 2 Newcastle (1) 2
Townsend 13; Charvet 38; Cooper 59; Dabizas 83
Middlesbrough (5-3-2): Schwarzer; Fleming, Cooper, Pallister, Vickers, Gordon; Mustoe, Gascoigne, Townsend; Ricard, Deane. Subs: Roberts, Beck, Stamp, Maddison, Stockdale.
Newcastle (4-4-2): Harper; Charvet, Hughes, Howey, Barton; Gillespie, Lee, Speed, Solano (Gass, h-t); Ferguson, Andersson. Subs: Perez, Hamann, Dalglish, Dabizas.
Att: 34,629 Ref: U Rennie (Sheffield)

Tottenham (1) 2 Liverpool (0) 1
Fox 26; Carragher 50 (og); Berger 55
Tottenham (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Campbell, Young, Sinton; Fox, Anderton, Nielsen, Ginola; Armstrong, Iversen (Ferdinand, 33min). Subs: Baardsen, Calderwood, Scales, Clemence.
Liverpool (3-5-2): James, Carragher, Staunton, Babb; Heggem, Gerrard (Thompson, 55), Ince, Berger, Bjornebye (Murphy, 75); Owen, Fowler. Subs: Friedel, Kvarme, Harkness.
Att: 36,521 Ref: G Barber (Pyrford).

Wimbledon (0) 2 Coventry (0) 1
Euell 71, 83; McAllister 54 (pen)
Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan; Cunningham, Perry, Blackwell, Thatcher; Ardley, Euell, Earle, Hughes; Ekoku, Gayle (Ainsworth, h-t). Subs: Kimble, Roberts, Heald, Kennedy.
Coventry (3-5-2): Hedman; Shaw, Williams, Edworthy; Nilsson (Breen, 80min), Telfer, McAllister, Boateng, Froggatt; Huckerby, Whelan. Subs not used: Jackson, Soltvedt, Ogrizovic, Dalish.
Att: 11,717 Ref: Steve Dunn (Bristol)

Non-League

CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering	21	11	5	5	27	16	38
Cheltenham	18	10	6	2	34	17	36
Stevenage	18	9	6	3	25	16	33
Rushden & D	16	9	4	3	33	14	31
Hereford	19	8	5	6	24	19	29
Kingstonian	17	8	5	4	27	23	29
Yeovil	18	7	7	4	25	22	28
Hednesford	17	7	6	3	22	17	27
Morecambe	19	8	3	8	31	38	27
Northwich	18	7	5	7	21	21	26
Hayes	17	8	2	7	19	23	26
Kidderminster	17	7	3	7	27	20	24
Woking	17	6	4	7	21	21	22
Southport	16	5	6	5	23	23	21
Dover	17	4	8	5	14	17	20
Leek Town	18	6	1	11	28	29	19
Forest Green	18	4	6	8	21	26	18
Telford	17	4	6	7	19	27	18
Farnborough	18	4	5	9	20	33	17
Barrow	19	4	5	10	19	35	17
Welling	19	2	8	9	16	29	14
Doncaster	18	3	4	11	16	28	13

Barrow (1) 2 Leek (0) 1
Mutch 2, 50; McAuley 90
Att: 1,047

Dover (0) 0 Cheltenham (0) 0
Att: 972

Hayes (0) 0 Kettering (1) 2
McNamara 14; Hudson 87
Att: 603

Northwich (1) 1 Hereford (0) 0
Tait 2
Att: 1,068

Telford (1) 2 Morecambe (0) 3
Doyle 25; Turner 76; Norman 55, 71, 83
Att: 604

Forest Grn (0) 0 Farnborough (0) 0
Att: 703

Welling (0) 0 Woking (1) 1
Payne 3
Att: 843

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leading goalscorers (total): **12** Owen (Liverpool); Ricard (Middlesbrough); Yorke (Man Utd). **11** Dublin (Aston Villa). **10** Blake (Blackburn). **9** Hasselbaink (Leeds); Fowler (Liverpool); Cole (Man Utd). **8** Shearer (Newcastle); Heskey (Leicester); Poyet (Chelsea); Armstrong (Tottenham). **7** Anelka (Arsenal); Zola (Chelsea); Ferguson (Newcastle).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 1 Inter Cable-Tel 0; Barry Town 2 Haverfordwest 0; Caernarfon Town 2 Caersws 2; Conwy 3 Total Net Sol 3; Newtown 0 Cwmbran 0; Rhyl 1 Aberystwyth 0.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier Division: Barnstaple Tn 2 Backwell Utd 5; Bridport 2 Bideford 3; Calne Tn 1 Tiverton Tn 7; Elmore 10 Westbury Utd 1; Keynsham Tn 1 Brislington 4; Odd Down 1 Bridgwater Tn 4; Taunton Tn 4 Paulton Rvrs 0. **Les Phillips Cup: Second round:** Corsham Tn 3 Frome Tn 2.

IRISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Ballymena 2 Crusaders 0; Cliftonville 1 Coleraine 1; Glentoran 0 Linfield 1; Newry 1 Glenavon 0; Portadown 2 Omagh Tn 0. **First Division:** Ards 2 Dungannon Swifts 1; Ballyclare 2 Carrick 1; Distillery 0 Bangor 3; Larne 4 Limavady Utd 0.

FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division: Finn Harps 3 Shelbourne 2; Sligo Rvrs 0 UCD 1.

UNIBOND PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worksop	19	11	3	5	28	21	36
Winsford Utd	19	9	6	4	31	21	33
Bamber Bridge	20	9	6	5	28	24	33
Guiseley	16	10	2	4	30	17	32
Altrincham	19	8	6	5	29	18	30
Emley	17	8	6	3	24	17	30
Blyth Spartans	21	9	3	9	27	29	30
Gateshead	20	8	5	7	31	29	29
Gainsborough	20	8	4	8	29	25	28
Lancaster	16	7	5	4	23	18	26
Hyde Utd	18	6	7	5	23	18	25
Whitby Town	17	6	7	4	30	26	25
Leigh RMI	18	6	6	6	29	27	24
Marine	21	5	9	7	29	35	24
B Auckland	22	6	6	10	31	38	24
Colwyn Bay	20	6	4	10	24	32	22
Frickley	16	5	6	5	20	22	21
Stalybridge	18	5	5	8	28	29	20
Runcorn	15	4	7	4	15	18	19
A Stanley	19	4	4	11	20	33	16
Spennymoor	21	4	4	13	26	43	16
Chorley	20	2	9	9	21	37	15

RYMAN PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	18	12	4	2	34	13	40
Sutton Utd	18	10	3	3	30	18	33
St Albans	16	9	5	2	31	19	32
Billericay Tn	18	9	5	4	23	15	32
Purfleet	18	9	4	5	31	23	31
Dag & Red	17	8	5	4	40	26	29
Hendon	18	8	5	5	38	29	29
Aldershot Tn	17	7	4	6	36	18	25
Harrow Borough	19	7	4	8	32	31	25
Gravesend	17	7	3	7	21	21	24
Enfield	16	7	2	7	28	22	23
Bromley	18	6	4	8	30	28	22
Boreham Wood	17	5	7	5	22	24	22
Basingstoke	16	6	3	7	27	28	21
Chesham	17	6	3	8	27	34	21
Slough	17	5	5	7	25	31	20
Dulwich	18	5	5	8	17	24	20
W & Hersham	17	5	3	9	19	26	18
Hampton	18	4	5	9	20	38	17
B Stortford	18	3	7	8	25	41	16
Carshalton	18	3	4	11	17	38	13
Heybridge	18	3	4	11	16	43	13

DR MARTENS PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	19	13	4	2	46	16	43
Crawley Tn	16	9	3	4	23	20	30
Bath City	16	9	2	5	24	13	29
Gresley Rvrs	15	9	2	4	24	17	29
Ilkeston Tn	19	7	8	4	27	21	29
Hastings	17	8	4	5	20	15	28
Atherstone	17	7	6	4	26	22	27
Cambridge C	19	8	3	8	23	26	27
Boston Utd	19	6	8	5	32	23	26
Merthyr	18	8	2	8	32	27	26
Gloucester C	16	7	5	4	23	20	26
Tamworth	16	7	2	7	23	26	23
Worcester C	15	7	2	6	16	19	23
Grantham	17	7	1	9	25	27	22
Halesowen	19	6	3	10	26	31	21
Rothwell Tn	17	5	6	6	18	28	21
Weymouth	17	5	4	8	19	28	19
Burton Alb	16	5	2	9	21	28	17
Bromsgrove	18	5	2	11	21	35	17
Salisbury	16	4	4	8	16	28	16
Dorchester	17	3	4	10	19	29	13
Kings Lynn	17	3	3	11	15	29	12

POOLS CHECK: Half-time: Score draws (total 8): 17, 18, 23, 26, 32, 34, 48, 49. **No-score draws** (13): 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 19, 20, 22, 29, 30, 41. **Full-time: Score draws** (9): 1, 17, 20, 24, 28, 32, 35, 41, 44. **No-score draws** (4): 3, 4, 19, 22.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Altrincham 0 Blyth Spartans 0; Bamber Bridge 3 Gateshead 1; Bishop Auckland 2 Gainsborough 1; Chorley 0 Marine 2; Emley 1 Spennymoor 0; Frickley 2 Colwyn Bay 1; Guiseley 2 Runcorn 0; Lancaster 1 Winsford Utd 0; Worksop 1 Accrington Stanley 0. **Postponed:** Stalybridge v Whitby Town.
First Division: Alfreton Town 1 Great Harwood Town 3; Bradford P A 1 Radcliffe Borough 2; Farsley Celtic 0 Witton Albion 1; Flixton 2 Burscough 2; Gretna 4 Trafford 1; Stocksbridge PS 0 Matlock Town 0. **Postponed:** Whitley Bay v Droylsden.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Aldershot Tn 3 Bromley 0; Billericay Tn 1 Dag & Red 2; Bishop's Stortford 2 Dulwich 1; Chesham 1 Heybridge 0; Gravesend 0 Enfield 3; Hampton 1 Carshalton 1; Hendon 2 Basingstoke 1; Purfleet 2 Boreham Wood 1; Slough 3 Walton & Hersham 0; St Albans 2 Aylesbury 1; Sutton Utd 2 Harrow Borough 1.
First Division: Barton Rovers 1 Maidenhead Utd 1; Bognor Regis Town 0 Canvey Island 0; Braintree Town 2 Hitchin Town 0; Chertsey Town 1 Leatherhead 0; Croydon 0 Wembley 0; Leyton Pennant 1 Worthing 2; Oxford City 1 Uxbridge 3; Romford 2 Berkhamsted Town 2; Wealdstone 2 Molesey 2; Whyteleafe 3 Staines Town 0; Yeading 1 Grays Athletic 1.
Second Division: Chalfont St Peter 3 Barking 1; Harlow Town 7 Bracknell Town 1; Hertford Town 0 Met Police 1; Horsham 3 Abingdon Town 1; Hungerford Town 0 Marlow 0; Leighton Town 2 Banstead Athletic 0; Northwood 1 Hemel Hempstead 1; Thame Utd 4 Windsor & Eton 1; Tooting & Mitcham 1 Bedford Town 5; Witham Town 1 Edgware Town 4; Wokingham Town 2 Wivenhoe Town 0.
Third Division: Aveley 1 Epsom & Ewell 1; Egham Town 3 Flackwell Heath 0; Hornchurch 1 Camberley Town 0; Kingsbury Town 1 Corinthian Casuals 2; Lewes 3 Ford Utd 0; Tilbury 0 Cheshunt 1; Tring Town 1 Dorking 3; Ware 0 Croydon Athletic 2; Wingate & Finchley 2 East Thurrock Utd 2.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Atherstone 1 Hastings 1; Bath City 3 Merthyr 0; Boston Utd 4 Burton Albion 0; Crawley Town 1 Tamworth 0; Dorchester 4 Salisbury 0; Gloucester City 4 Bromsgrove 3; Grantham 2 Weymouth 0; Gresley Rovers 2 Kings Lynn 1; Halesowen 0 Worcester City 0; Ilkeston Tn 0 Cambridge City 0; Rothwell Town 1 Nuneaton 1.
Midland Division: Bedworth Utd 1 Paget Rangers 1; Bilston Town 1 R C Warwick 0; Bloxwich Town 0 Evesham Utd 4; Moor Green 4 Newport A F C 1; Shepshed Dynamo 0 Stafford Rangers 0; Solihull Boro 1 Hinckley Utd 3; Stamford AFC 1 Cinderford Town 2; Stourbridge 1 Sutton Coldfield Town 2; Weston-S-Mare 0 Redditch Utd 1; Wisbech Town 0 Clevedon Town 2.
Southern Division: Andover 1 Margate 3; Baldock Town 3 Dartford 2; Bashley 4 Folkestone Invicta 1; Brackley Town 1 Chelmsford City 5; Corby Town 0 Havant & Waterlooville 2; Erith & Belvedere 2 Ashford Town 1; Fisher Athletic London 1 Witney Town 3; Newport I-O-W L Raunds Town L; St Leonards 2 Fleet Town 0; Tonbridge Angels 0 Cirencester Town 3; Yate Town 0 Sittingbourne 3.

S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE: Barnet 2 Luton 0; Bournemouth 5 Cambridge 3; Brentford 2 Colchester Utd 2; Brighton 1 Portsmouth 1; Bristol Rvrs 3 Leyton Orient 3; Oxford Utd 1 Gillingham 2; Reading 2 Wycombe 2; Swindon 4 Southend Utd 1.

Nationwide League

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	21	13	7	1	49	15	46
Ipswich	22	12	6	4	31	12	42
Watford	22	10	7	5	37	31	37
Norwich	21	10	6	5	35	27	36
Bolton	21	9	8	4	40	30	35
Huddersfield	22	10	5	7	33	38	35
Birmingham	22	10	5	7	30	23	35
Bradford	21	10	4	7	36	25	34
Sheff Utd	22	9	6	7	33	35	33
Wolverhampton	22	9	6	7	31	22	33
Grimsby	22	9	5	8	27	26	32
West Brom	21	9	3	9	39	37	30
Barnsley	22	6	9	7	32	30	27
Crystal Palace	19	8	3	8	30	34	27
Bury	22	7	6	9	17	24	27
Stockport	22	5	11	6	28	27	26
QPR	22	7	4	11	26	32	25
Portsmouth	22	6	6	10	31	36	24
Swindon	22	6	6	10	30	35	24
Oxford Utd	22	6	5	11	25	38	23
Tranmere	21	4	10	7	27	33	22
Port Vale	22	6	4	12	26	43	22
Bristol City	22	4	7	11	32	49	19
Crewe	21	2	5	14	21	46	11

Bristol City (1) 2 Sheffield Utd (0) 0
Bell 33 (pen); Akinbiyi 84
Bristol City Phillips, Brennan, Bell, Hutchings, Shail, Carey, Edwards (Murray 24), Thorpe, Akinbiyi, Andersen (Doherty 77), Tinnion. Sub not used: Langan.
Sheffield United Tracey, O'Connor, Quinn, Henry, Derry, Sandford, Ford, Hamilton, Marcelo, Devlin (Twiss 13), Woodhouse. Subs not used: Wilder, Walker.
Att: 11,134 Ref: A Hall (Birmingham).

Bury (2) 2 WBA (0) 0
Johnrose 9; D'Jaffo 28 (pen)
Bury Kiely, Woodward, Williams, Daws, Lucketti, Billy (James 83), Swailes, Littlejohn, D'Jaffo (Preece 73), Johnrose, Foster. Sub not used: West.
West Bromwich Albion Whitehead, Holmes, Potter, Flynn, Murphy, Carbon, Quinn (Sneekes 46), Bortolazzi (Angel 46), Evans (Maresca 62), De Freitas, Kilbane.
Att: 5,007 Ref: G Laws (Whitley Bay).

Huddersfield (2) 4 C Palace (0) 0
Stewart 15, 24, 62; Facey 90
Huddersfield Town Francis, Jenkins, Edwards, Johnson (Beech 66), Dyson, Gray, Facey, Phillips, Stewart, Allison (Beresford 83), Cowan. Sub not used: Barnes.
Crystal Palace Digby, Smith, Crowe, Petric, Moore, Mullins, Svensson (Morrison 70), Rizzo, Bradbury, Jansen, Tuttle. Subs not used: Austin, Curcic.
Att: 10,453 Ref: G Cain (Bootle).

Ipswich (1) 1 Birmingham (0) 0
Petta 16
Ipswich Town Wright, Tanner, Thetis, Clapham, Mowbray, Venus, Dyer, Holland, Abou, Scowcroft, Petta (Naylor 85). Subs not used: Hodges, Kennedy.
Birmingham City Poole, Rowett, Grainger, Robinson, Ablett, Johnson, McCarthy (Hughes 80), O'Connor (Bass 90), Forster, Holland (Furlong 48), Ndlovu.
Att: 15,901 Ref: M Jones (Chester).

Oxford (0) 0 Bradford C (1) 1
Mills 22
Oxford United Jackson, Robinson, Marsh, Gray, Wilsterman, Gilchrist, Murphy (Beauchamp 27), Smith, Thomson, Windass, Powell. Subs not used: Whelan, Weatherstone.
Bradford City Walsh, Wright, Jacobs, McCall, Moore, O'Brien, Lawrence, Blake (Rankin 73), Mills, Whalley, Beagrie. Subs not used: Bower, Bolland.
Att: 5,969 Ref: M Pike (Barrow-in-Furness).

Portsmth (0) 2 Crewe (0) 0
McLoughlin 72; Claridge 89
Portsmouth Petterson, Thogersen, Robinson, McLoughlin, Waterman (Phillips 67), Awford, Thomson, Peron, Aloisi, Claridge, Igoe. Subs not used: Hillier, Nightingale.
Crewe Alexandra Kearton, Bignot, Smith, Unsworth, Macauley, Charnock, Wright, Johnson, Jack, Anthrobus (Lunt 78), Street. Subs not used: Little, Lightfoot.
Att: 9,800 Ref: K Leach (Codsall).

QPR (0) 3 Port Vale (1) 2
Maddix 47; Foyle 31; Talbot 57 (og); Barker 78; Sharon 88
Queens Park Rangers Miklosko, Heinola, Baraclough, Morrow (Steiner 35), Ready, Maddix, Rose, Murray, Sharon, Gallen, Rowland. Subs not used: Kulcsar, Scully.
Port Vale Pilkington, Lytle, McGlinchey, Bogie, Aspin, Beesley, Eyre (Naylor 88), Barker, Talbot, Foyle, Koordes. Subs not used: McQuade, Snijders.
Att: 10,498 Ref: M Fletcher (Warley).

Sunderland (1) 1 Stockport (0) 0
Summerbee 30
Sunderland Sorensen, Makin, Scott, Ball, Melville, Butler, Summerbee (Williams 75), Clark, Quinn, Bridges (Dichio 64), Johnston (Rae 85).
Stockport County Nash, Connelly, Dinning, Cook, Flynn, McIntosh, Matthews (Wilbraham 89), McInnes, Angell, Moore, Cooper. Subs not used: Gannon, Woodthorpe.
Att: 36,040 Ref: J Kirkby (Sheffield).

Swindon (1) 1 Norwich (1) 1
Walters 41; Roberts 17
Swindon Town Talia, Robinson, Hall (Taylor 80), Leitch, Willis, Borrows, Walters (Bullock 75), Watson, Onuora, Fenn (Hay 71), Davis.
Norwich City Watt, Kenton, Mackay, Grant, Wilson, Jackson, Marshall, Bellamy, Roberts, Russell, Llewellyn. Subs not used: Coote, Forbes, Wray.
Att: 9,262 Ref: B Coddington (Sheffield).

Tranmere (1) 1 Grimsby (1) 2
Hill 18; Groves 23 (pen); Ashcroft 46
Tranmere Rovers Achterberg, Allen, Thompson, Hill, Challinor, Irons, Koumas, Santos (Taylor 60), Kelly, Mellon (Mahon 52), Parkinson. Sub not used: Morrissey.
Grimsby Town Davison, McDermott, Gallimore (Black 49), Handyside, Livingstone, Coldicott, Donovan, Smith, Nogan, Lester (Ashcroft 46), Groves. Sub not used: Widdrington.
Att: 4,907 Ref: T Bates (Stoke-on-Trent).

Watford (0) 0 Barnsley (0) 0
Watford Chamberlain, Bazeley, Kennedy, Page, Palmer, Robinson, Ngonge (Mooney 55), Hyde, Noel-Williams, Johnson, Wright (Gudmundsson 71). Sub not used: Easton.
Barnsley Bullock, Morgan, Moses, Eaden, Tinkler, Appleby, McClare, Hignett, Rose (Bagshaw 71), Burton, Barnard. Sub not used: Sheridan, Marcelle.
Att: 10,185 Ref: J Brandwood (Lichfield).

Wolves (0) 1 Bolton (0) 1
Emblen 72; Taylor 58
Wolverhampton Wanderers Stowell, Muscat, Naylor, Richards, Sedgley, Curle, Corica, Robinson, Whittingham, Keane, Osborn. Subs not used: Connolly, Niestroj, Emblen.
Bolton Wanderers Jaaskelainen, Cox, Elliott, Frandsen, Warhurst, Newsome, Johansen, Jensen, Gunnlaugsson, Taylor, Sellars. Subs not used: Phillips, Gardner, Fish.
Att: 22,537.

Leading goalscorers (total): **22** Hughes (West Brom). **17** Aloisi (Portsmouth). **15** Bellamy (Norwich); Ward (Barnsley). **14** Gunnlaugsson (Bolton); Stewart (Huddersfield). **12** Roberts (Norwich). **11** Mills (Bradford C); Onuora (Swindon); Johnson (Ipswich); Scowcroft (Ipswich); Irons (Tranmere); Akinbiyi (Bristol City); Bridges (Sunderland). **10** Quinn (Sunderland).

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle 0 Clachnacuddin 3; Forres Mechanics 1 Fraserburgh 1; Fort William 0 Brora Rangers 7; Lossiemouth 1 Deveronvale 1; Wick Academy 1 Huntly 3; **Postponed:** Cove Rangers v Elgin City; Keith v Nairn County; Rothes v Peterhead.

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	20	14	1	5	30	15	43
Walsall	20	12	3	5	30	24	39
Fulham	19	12	3	4	28	16	39
Preston	19	9	7	3	34	19	34
Gillingham	20	8	9	3	29	18	33
Chesterfield	19	9	5	5	21	13	32
Luton	18	8	5	5	24	19	29
Man City	20	7	8	5	24	19	29
Reading	19	8	5	6	23	25	29
Wigan	20	8	4	8	28	20	28
Millwall	20	7	7	6	19	21	28
Bournemouth	18	7	6	5	29	20	27
Blackpool	20	7	6	7	25	25	27
Wrexham	20	6	6	8	20	27	24
Colchester	19	6	6	7	19	23	24
Bristol Rovers	20	5	8	7	24	25	23
Burnley	20	6	5	9	22	30	23
York	19	5	6	8	23	33	21
Notts County	19	5	6	8	21	25	21
Macclesfield	20	4	7	9	17	28	19
Northampton	20	3	9	8	18	23	18
Oldham	20	4	5	11	19	32	17
Wycombe	20	3	6	11	16	26	15
Lincoln City	19	3	3	13	19	38	12

Blackpool (0) 1 Chesterfield (0) 1
Lawson 70; Howard 77
Blackpool Banks, Bryan, Shuttleworth, Bardsley, Carlisle, Hughes, Ormerod (Nowland 84), Clarkson, Lawson, Bushell, Malkin (Bent 63). Sub not used: Blunt.
Chesterfield Mercer, Hewitt, Jules, Curtis, Williams, Breckin, Howard, Beaumont, Reeves, Ebdon, Perkins (Wilkinson 75). Subs not used: Blatherwick, Leaning.
Att: 3,278 Ref: R Pearson (Peterlee).

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cardiff	20	11	4	5	23	16	37
Halifax	20	10	6	4	30	18	36
Mansfield	20	10	4	6	31	23	34
Leyton Orient	20	9	7	4	25	21	34
Rotherham	20	9	6	5	37	24	33
Scunthorpe	20	10	3	7	35	33	33
Brentford	18	11	0	7	34	26	33
Cambridge Utd	19	10	3	6	32	24	33
Peterborough	20	9	3	8	34	26	30
Darlington	18	8	4	6	27	22	28
Brighton	20	9	1	10	24	28	28
Plymouth	19	8	3	8	23	19	27
Swansea	19	7	6	6	23	20	27
Hartlepool	20	7	4	9	29	31	25
Exeter	19	7	4	8	20	22	25
Southend	20	6	6	8	22	27	24
Rochdale	19	6	6	7	18	21	24
Shrewsbury	20	6	6	8	18	23	24
Chester	19	4	9	6	23	28	21
Barnet	20	6	3	11	21	35	21
Carlisle	18	5	5	8	16	19	20
Scarborough	20	5	3	12	21	31	18
Torquay	20	3	9	8	20	29	18
Hull	20	4	3	13	18	36	15

Leading goalscorers (total): **Second Division: 15** Stein (Bournemouth). **14** Payton (Burnley). **13** Cresswell (York); Asaba (Gillingham). **12** Horsfield (Fulham). **11** Goater (Man City). **10** Hayles (Fulham); Rammell (Walsall), Barlow (Wigan); Gray (Luton). **Third Division: 13** Forrester (Scunthorpe). **11** Owusu (Brentford), Butler (Cambridge Utd) **10** Peacock (Mansfield); Benjamin (Cambridge Utd).

FA Cup

SECOND ROUND

Cardiff (1) 3 Hednesford (0) 1
Middleton 45; Fowler 59; Williams 82; Carty 87
Cardiff Hallworth, Delaney, Ford, Mitchell, Young, Carpenter (Hill 71), Fowler, O'Sullivan, Williams (Earnshaw 85), Nugent (Thomas 80), Middleton. Subs not used: Eckhardt, Kelly.
Hednesford Morgan, Sedgemore, Cotton, Comyn, Brindley, Bradley, Ware, Beeston (Stades 64), Davis (Kelly 69), Carty, Kimmins (Hayward 83). Sub not used: Fitzpatrick, Reece.
Att: 5,538 Ref: T Heilbron (Newton Aycliffe).

Darlington (1) 1 Man City (0) 1
Bennett 16; Dickov 77
Darlington Preece, Reed, Barnard, Liddle, Tutill, Bennett (Brumwell 45), Gaughan, Naylor, Dorner (Oliver 78), Gabbiadini, Atkinson. Subs not used: Samways, Leece, Carter.
Man City Weaver, Edghill, Vaughan, Morrison, Wiekens, Crooks, Mason (Dickov 60), Pollock, Goater, Taylor, Russell. Subs not used: Wright, Brown, Bishop, Tiatto.
Att: 7,250 Ref: B Knight (Orpington).

Doncaster (0) 0 Rushden & D (0) 0
Doncaster Woods, Shaw, Warren, Snodin (Beckett 80), Nicol, Sutherland, Penney, Goodwin, Doerden (Hume 72), Kirkwood, Wright. Subs not used: Maamria, Jones, George.
Rushden & D'monds Gayle, Wooding, Bradshaw, Mison, Warburton, Hagge, McElhatton, Butterworth, West, Archer, Underwood. Subs not used: Foster, Hanlon, Hamsher, Brady, Rodwell.
Att: 5,396 Ref: S Mathieson (Stockport).

Exeter (1) 2 Bristol Rvrs (1) 2
Flack 36; Gardner 48; Penrice 43; Cureton 76
Exeter Bayes, Fry (Breslan 85), Power, Clark, Richardson, Gittens, Rowbotham (McConnell 83), Rees, Flack, Curran, Gardner. Subs not used: Blake, Potter, Wilkinson.
Bristol Rovers Jones, Leoni, Challis, Trees, Foster, Smith, Holloway, Meaker (Zabek 33), Penrice, Cureton, Ipoua. Subs not used: Collett, Trought, Claridge, Pritchard.
Att: 4,352 Ref: M Halsey (Welwyn Gdn City).

Fulham (1) 4 Hartlepool (1) 2
Horsfield 6; Di Lella 47 (og); Morgan 81; Horsfield 84; Midgley 41; Howard 58
Fulham Taylor, Uhlenbeek, Brazier, Morgan, Coleman, Symons, Hayward, Bracewell (Smith 90), Horsfield, Peschisolido, Hayles. Subs not used: Brevett, Arendse, Trollope, Salako.
Hartlepool Hollund, Knowles, Clark, Barron, Ingram, Di Lella (Hutt 76), Stokes, Miller, Howard, Midgley, Stephenson. Subs not used: Baker, Miotto, Roth, Brightwell.
Att: 6,358 Ref: A Butler (Sutton-in-Ashfield).

Kingstnian (0) 0 Leyton Orient (0) 0
Kingstonian Farrelly, Mustafa, Luckett, Crossley, Stewart, Harris, Patterson, Pitcher, Rattray, Leworthy (Holligan 61), Akuamoah. Subs not used: Corbett, Smith, Brown, John.
Leyton Orient MacKenzie, Watsonarts, Morrison, Smith, Hicks, Clark, Ling, Joseph (Inglethorpe 53), Griffiths (Maskell 69), Simba, Beall. Subs not used: Brown, Canham, Baker.
Att: 3,495 Ref: M Warren (Walsall).

Notts Co (1) 1 Wigan (0) 1
Jones 27; Lowe 57
Notts County Ward, Hendon, Pearce, Redmile, Dyer, Richardson, Owers, Garcia (Cuayle 67), Liburd, Jones, Murray. Subs not used: Fairclough, Beadle, Dick, Howell.
Wigan Carroll, Green, Bradshaw, McGibbon, Balmer, Rogers (Lee 56), Kilford, Greenall, Lowe, O'Neill, Barlow. Subs not used: Smith, Porter, Sharp, Warne.
Att: 3,591 Ref: M Pierce (Portsmouth).

Lincoln C (1) 4 Stevenage (0) 1
Battersby 22; Alcide 49; Finnigan 66; Holmes 69; Alford 90
Lincoln City Richardson, Miller (Stones 87), Bimson, Fleming, Holmes, Austin, Smith, Finnigan, Battersby, Thorpe, Alcide (Whitney 75). Subs not used: Brown, Vaughan, Perry.
Stevenage Taylor, Harvey, Naylor, Smith, Howarth, Beevor (Kean 72), Plummer, Berry, Alford, Love, Reinault (Samuels 46). Subs not used: Trott, Rogers, Gallagher.
Att: 4,375 Ref: E Wolstenholme (Blackburn).

Luton (1) 1 Hull (1) 2
S Davis 36; Morley 29; Dewhurst 63
Luton K Davis, Alexander, McGowan, Spring, S Davis, White, McKinnon (McIndoe 61), Evers, Doherty (Douglas 64), Gray, McLaren (Scarlett 80). Subs not used: Abbey, Thomas.
Hull Wilson, Greaves, Edwards, Hocking, Whittle, Dewhurst, French, D'Auria, David Brown (Ellington 86), Morley, McGinty. Subs not used: Danny Brown, Alder, Sharman, Pople.
Att: 5,021 Ref: C Foy (St Helens)

Macclesfld (1) 4 Cambridge U (0) 1
Askey 35; Tomlinson 60, 65, 71; Campbell 55
Macclesfield Price, Tinson, Hitchen, Payne, Wood, Sodje (Ingram 74), Askey, Sorvel, Tomlinson, Sedgemore, Whittaker (Davenport 82). Subs not used: Clarke, Howarth, Durkan.
Cambridge Utd Marshall, Chenery, Ashbee, Duncan, McNeil (Joseph 68), Campbell, Wanless, Taylor (Mustoe 74), Butler, Benjamin, Russell. Subs not used: Preece, Van Heusden, Ingham.
Att: 2,850 Ref: R Fernandiz (Doncaster).

Mansfield (0) 1 Southport (1) 2
Lormor 72; Gamble 25 (pen); Ross 48
Mansfield Bowling, Ford, Harper, Peters, Clarke, Hackett, Schofield, Walker (Christie 80), Lormor, Peacock, Talbot. Subs not used: Williams, Kerr, Ryder, Sisson.
Southport Stewart, Farley, Ryan, Butler (Futcher 24), Guyett, Horner, Thompson (Furlong 75), Gouck (Bolland 45), Ross, Gamble, Formby. Subs not used: Bagnall, Quinn.
Att: 3,210 Ref: G Frankland (Middlesbrough).

Oldham (0) 1 Brentford (1) 1
McGinlay 74 (pen); Freeman 35 (pen)
Oldham Kelly, McNiven, Holt, Garnett, Rickers, Duxbury, Graham (Allott 51), Sheridan, Tipton (McGinlay 61), Whitehall, Reid. Sub (not used) Sinnott, Mckelly, Thom
Brentford Pearcey, Anderson, Watson, Hebel, Quinn, Bates, Freeman (Bryan 81), Oatway, Owusu, Rowlands, Folan. Sub (not used) Fortune-West, Dearden, Boxall, Clark.
Att: 4,217 Ref: A Wilkie (Chester-le-Street)

Preston (0) 2 Walsall (0) 0
Nogan 58; McKenna 69
Preston Lucas, Parkinson, Ludden, Kidd, Jackson, Gregan, Cartwright, Rankine, Nogan, Harris, McKenna. Subs not used: Murdock, Macken, Wright, Darby, O'Hanlon.
Walsall Walker, Evans (Garrault 70), Pointon, Keates, Green, Roper, Wrack, Otta (A Watson 70), Rammell, Larusson, Marsh. Subs not used: M Watson, Porter, Platt.
Att: 8,488 Ref: S Lodge (Barnsley)

Rochdale (0) 0 Rotherham (0) 0
Rochdale Key (Edwards 10), Williams (Diaz 67), Sparrow, Hill, Monington, Johnson, Carden, Painter, Stuart, Bryson, Peake. Subs not used: Farrell, Barlow, Jones.
Rotherham Pollitt, Ingledow, Hurst, Garner, Richardson, Dillon, Berry (Sedgwick 58), Hudson, Scott, Glover, Roscoe. Subs not used: Pettinger, Knill, Thompson, White.
Att: 3,346 Ref: P Walton (Winwick)

Scunthorpe (0) 2 Bedlington (0) 0
Eyre 54 (pen); Forrester 81
Scunthorpe Clarke, Fickling, McAuley, Logan, Wilcox, Hope, Harsley, Forrester, Eyre, Stamp (Bull 89), Calvo-Garcia (Marshall 59). Subs not used: Evans, Walker, Stanton.
Bedlington Ter O'Connor, Sokoluk, Pike, Teasdale, Dickburn, Melrose, Cross (Ludlow 82), Bond (Boon 57), Gibb, Milner, Middleton (Renforth 74). Subs not used: Pearson, Egan.
Att: 4,719 Ref: E Lomas (Manchester).

Swansea (1) 1 Stoke (0) 0
Appleby 41
Swansea Freestone, S Jones, Howard, Cusack, Smith, Bound, Price, Thomas, Alsop, Bird (Jenkins 76), Appleby. Subs not used: J Jones, Roberts, Newhouse, O'Leary.
Stoke Muggleton, Petty (Sturridge 88), Small, Sigurdsson, Robinson, Woods, Keen, Kavanagh, Thorne, Forsyth, Oldfield. Subs not used: Wallace, Sinclair, Tweed, Heath.
Att: 7,460 Ref: K Lynch (Kirk Hammerton).

Torquay (0) 0 Bournemth (1) 1
Robinson 22
Torquay Veysey, Gurney, Herrera, Robinson, Aggrey (Bedeau 74), Watson, Leadbitter, McGorry, Thomas, Partridge, Hill (Hapgood 86). Subs not used: Northmore, Tully, Hadley.
Bournemouth Ovendale, Young, Vincent, Howe, Warren (O'Neill 86), Bailey, Cox, Robinson, Stein, Fletcher, Hughes. Subs not used: Rodrigues, Berthe, Colgan, Dean.
Att: 2,929 Ref: P Dowd (Stoke-on-Trent).

Wrexham (1) 2 York (0) 1
N Roberts 33 (pen); Connolly 72; Jordan 25
Wrexham Cartwright, McGregor, Hardy, Brammer, Ridler, Spink, Chalk, Russell, Connolly, N Roberts (Owen 89), Ward. Subs not used: S Roberts, Walsh, Rush, Edwards.
York Mimms, Bullock (Rennison 46), Garratt, Tinkler, Jones, Reed, Conolly, Jordan, Cresswell, Tolson, Agnew (Rowe 89). Subs not used: Mohan, Prendergast, Woods.
Att: 2,838 Ref: F Stretton (Nottingham).

Wycombe (1) 1 Plymouth (0) 1
Baird 31; McCarthy 76 (og)
Wycombe Taylor, Lawrence, Vinnicombe, McCarthy, Cousins, Mohan, Simpson, Carroll, Baird, Scott, Emblen (Bulman 83). Subs not used: Read, Westhead, Beeton, Wraight.
Plymouth Dungey, Ashton, Beswetherick, Barlow, Heathcote, Wotton, Barlow, Sweeney, McCarthy, Jean, Phillips. Subs not used. Power, Wesson, Adams, Gill, Hodges.
Att: 3,493 Ref: J Robinson (Hull).

Yeovil (1) 2 Northampton (0) 0
Thompson 14; Patmore 82
Yeovil Pennock, Piper, Fishlock, Brown, Hannigan, Cousins, Thompson, Stott, Patmore, Dale (Smith 90), Pitman (Pounder 71). Subs not used: Mountain, Franklin, Appleton.
Northampton Turley, Hill, Frain, Sampson, Hunter (Freestone 57), Hunt (Parrish 87), Gibb, Savage, Wilkinson, Corazzin, Lee (Hughes 67). Subs not used: Woodman, Warner.
Att: 5,218 Ref: P Richards (Preston).

SECOND-ROUND REPLAYS

Tuesday Dec 15: Bristol Rvrs v Exeter (7.45); Rushden & D'monds v Doncaster (7.45); Wigan v Notts County (7.45); Brentford v Oldham (7.45); Rotherham v Rochdale (7.45); Plymouth v Wycombe (7.45); Leyton Orient v Kingstonian (7.45).

Auto W'screens Shield

FIRST ROUND
SOUTHERN SECTION

Colchester (1) 1 Gillingham (4) 5
D Gregory 23; Asaba 22; Pennock 29; Taylor 34, 67; Smith 37
Colchester Emberson, Dunne, Betts, Williams, Greene, Buckle, Forbes, D Gregory, Sale, N Gregory, Abrahams. Subs: Dozzell, Lock, Stamps.
Gillingham Bartram, Bryant, Butters, Smith, Ashby, Pennock, Hodge, Southall, Asaba, Galloway, Taylor. Subs: Pinnock, Stannard, Nosworthy.
Att: 1,742 Ref: W Jordan (Wilstone).

Scotland

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	16	9	4	3	30	14	31
Kilmarnock	17	8	7	2	25	13	31
Celtic	17	7	5	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	26
St Johnstone	16	6	6	4	19	22	24
Hearts	16	6	4	6	18	[illegible]	22
Dundee	15	5	4	6	14	20	19
Dundee Utd	17	4	6	7	17	19	18
Motherwell	16	4	6	6	13	22	18
Dunfermline	17	2	9	6	14	24	15
Aberdeen	17	3	5	9	15	[illegible]	14

Dundee U (0) 1 St Johnstone (0) 1
Dodds 53; Grant 55 (pen)
Dundee United Combe, Malpas, Patterson, Olofsson (Miller 80), Zetterlund, Dolan, Easton, Mathie (Thompson 82), Dodds, De Vos, Pascual. Subs not used: Dykstra, Skoldmark, Paterson.
St Johnstone Main, McQuillan, Dasovic, Kernaghan, Scott, O'Neil, Grant, McAnespie (85), Kane, Bollan, Dods, Simao (Lowndes 70). Subs not used: McMahon, Griffin, Robertson.
Att: 7,293 Ref: G Simpson (Bishopton).

Hearts (1) 2 Celtic (0) 1
Adam 37, 49; O'Donnell 74
Hearts Rousset; McPherson, Naysmith, Weir, Ritchie, Fulton, Adam, Quitongo, Hamilton (Holmes 80), Flogel, Murray, Guerin, Locke (83). Subs not used: McKenzie, McCann.
Celtic Gould, Boyd, Mahe, Stubbs, Larsson, O'Donnell, Donnelly, Lambert, McKinlay (Burchill 60), Riseth, Mjallby. Subs not used: Brattbakk, Hannah, Annoni, McCondichie.
Att: 17,334 Ref: M McCurry (Glasgow).

Kilmarnock (3) 4 Aberdeen (0) 0
Mitchell 34; Vareille 78; Wright 86 (pen)
Kilmarnock Marshall, MacPherson, Montgomerie, McGowne, Reilly, Holt, Wright (Roberts 80), Durrant, Mahood (80), Mitchell, Vareille (McCoist 80). Subs not used: Bagan, Strain.
Aberdeen Leighton, Whyte, Pepper (Good 81), Inglis, Smith, Jess, Dow, Buchan, Newell (81), Rowson, Wyness (Anderson 41), Winters. Subs not used: Stillie, Hart.
Att: 9,875 Ref: H Dallas (Motherwell).

Motherwell P Dundee P

Rangers (1) 1 Dunfermline (0) 1
Van Bronckhorst 16; Petrie 71
Rangers Niemi, Porrini, Amoruso, Numan, Hendry, B Ferguson, Kanchelskis, Van Bronckhorst, Albertz, Guivarc'h, Durie (71). Wallace. Subs not used: I Ferguson, Nicholson, Vidmar, Brown.
Dunfermline Athletic Butler, Shields, McCulloch, Tod, French, Hunter, Smith, Johnson, Eduardo (Millar 63), Graham, Petrie (72), Ferguson (Fraser 90). Subs not used: Westwater, Martin.
Att: 47,485 Ref: W Young (Clarkston).

Scottish Cup

FIRST ROUND

Arbroath (1) 1 Partick (2) 2
Gallagher 37 (pen); Tosh 5; Dunn 42
Arbroath Hinchcliffe, Florence, Gallagher, Sellars, Jones, Crawford, Cooper, Arbuckle, McGlashan, Mercer, Scott. Subs not used: Thomson, Tindal, Peters.
Partick Thistle Arthur, Kennedy, McKeown, Archibald, Jamieson, Gaughan, Connell, McKenzie, Tosh, Dunn, McDonald. Subs: Flannigan, Bonar, Frame.
Att: 1,333 Ref: B Orr (Kilbarchan).

Dumbarton (0) 1 Livingston (3) 1
Flannery 83; Millar 59
Dumbarton Barnes, Wilson, Brittain, Gow, Jack, King, Harvey, McKinnon, Flannery, Miller, Grace. Subs: Wilkinson, Melvin, Robertson.
Livingston Alexander, Boyle, Deas, McManus, Watson, Millar, Little, Cherry, Robertson, Fleming, Bingham. Subs not used: McCormick, Conway, McPhee.
Att: 530 Ref: J Fleming (Glasgow).

Queens Pk. (0) 2 Berwick (0) 0
Parks 77, Edgar 82
Queen's Park Cook, Caven, Connaghan, Ferguson, Martin, Elder, Ferry, Tyrrell, Edgar, Carmichael, Finlayson. Subs not used: Little, Parks, Alexander.
Berwick Rangers O'Connor, McNicoll, Neill, Fraser, Beaton, Watt, Neil, Rafferty, Forrester, Leask, Ramage. Subs (not used): Campbell, Smith, Quinn.
Att: 559 Ref: S Kaney (Perth).

Stenhsmuir (1) 1 Alloa (1) 1
Craig 39; Cameron 7
Stenhousemuir L Hamilton, Davidson, Gibson, Armstrong, Baptie, Lansdowne, R Hamilton, Fisher, Lawrence, Craig, Sprott. Subs: Watters, Banks, Christie.
Alloa Cairns, Valentine, Nelson, McAneny, Cowan, Ramsay, Wilson, McKay, Simpson, Irvine, Cameron. Subs: Gilmour, McKechnie, Pew.
Att: 730 Ref: B Cassidy (Cumnock).

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernian	18	11	5	2	36	21	38
Falkirk	18	10	5	3	29	16	35
Ayr	18	10	3	5	36	23	33
Airdrie	18	9	3	6	20	19	30
St Mirren	18	8	4	6	16	17	28
Clydebank	18	5	7	6	17	20	22
Hamilton	17	5	5	7	24	26	20
G Morton	18	4	3	11	17	24	15
Raith	17	3	6	8	15	24	15
Stranraer	18	3	1	14	16	36	10

Airdrie (1) 2 Clydebank (0) 0
McLaughlin 12 (og); Farrell 82
Att: 1,861 Ref: D McDonald (Edinburgh).

Falkirk (1) 3 Ayr (0) 0
Hamilton 12, Henry 59; Hutcheson 66
Att: 4,010 Ref: G Mitchell (Arbroath)

Morton (0) 1 Hibernian (1) 3
Fenwick 89; Crawford 5; Lovell 63; Rougier 90
Att: 3,150 Ref: J Rowbotham (Kirkcaldy)

Raith P Hamilton P

Stranraer (1) 1 St Mirren (1) 2
Campbell 45; Brown 24; McGarry 56
Att: 814

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Livingston	17	12	4	1	34	18	40
Inverness CT	17	10	5	2	35	24	35
Clyde	17	9	5	4	26	18	29
Stirling	17	9	1	7	29	30	28
Alloa	17	7	3	7	37	25	24
Partick	17	7	1	9	18	21	22
Arbroath	17	5	4	8	16	23	19
East Fife	17	5	3	9	22	35	18
Queen of South	17	3	4	10	17	25	13
Forfar	17	2	4	11	17	32	10

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ross County	17	13	0	4	44	18	39
Brechin	17	9	6	2	22	13	33
Stenhousemuir	17	9	3	5	26	17	30
Dumbarton	17	7	4	6	22	17	25
Albion	17	7	2	8	22	33	23
Berwick	17	5	7	5	21	21	22
Queen's Park	17	5	5	7	22	22	20
East Stirling	17	3	7	7	18	20	16
Cowdenbeath	17	4	2	11	16	32	14
Montrose	17	3	4	10	17	37	13

Europe

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fiorentina	12	8	1	3	23	13	25
Roma	12	6	4	2	[illegible]	13	22
Parma	12	6	4	2	17	[illegible]	22
Milan	12	6	3	3	18	14	21
Inter	12	5	3	4	21	14	18
Juventus	12	5	3	4	12	13	18
Bologna	12	4	5	3	15	10	17
Lazio	12	4	5	3	19	15	17
Udinese	12	4	4	4	15	20	16
Bari	12	2	9	1	12	11	15
Perugia	12	4	3	5	16	21	15
Cagliari	12	4	2	6	18	17	14
Sampdoria	12	3	4	5	10	20	13
Piacenza	12	3	3	6	15	16	12
†Empoli	12	3	5	4	9	13	12
Vicenza	12	2	5	5	9	16	11
Salernitana	12	3	2	7	10	19	11
Venezia	11	2	3	6	[illegible]	14	9

† Deducted 2pts for attempted match fixing

Cagliari	2	Venezia	1
Juventus	0	Lazio	1
AC Milan	3	Udinese	0
Piacenza	0	Empoli	0
Salernitana	2	Bari	2
Vicenza	1	Inter Milan	1
Saturday:			
Fiorentina	1	Bologna	0
AS Roma	5	Perugia	1
Sampdoria	0	Parma	[illegible]

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Leverkusen	16	10	5	1	[illegible]	15	35
Bayern Munich	16	11	2	3	[illegible]	11	35
1860 Munich	16	9	3	4	29	21	30
Kaiserslautern	16	9	3	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	30
B Dortmund	16	7	4	5	24	[illegible]	25
Wolfsburg	16	6	6	4	30	22	24
Hertha Berlin	15	7	2	6	20	17	23
Hamburg	16	5	6	5	21	19	21
VfB Stuttgart	16	5	5	6	21	23	20
SC Freiburg	15	4	6	5	19	21	18
VfL Bochum	16	5	3	8	21	29	18
Schalke 04	16	4	5	7	12	27	17
W Bremen	15	4	4	7	27	22	16
Eintracht	16	4	4	8	20	27	16
MSV Duisburg	15	3	6	6	15	24	15
Nuremberg	16	2	9	5	20	27	15
Hansa Rostock	16	2	6	8	22	30	12
B Mochengladbach	14	2	3	9	19	39	9

TSV 1860 Munich	2	Borussia Dortmund	1
Saturday:			
Eintracht Frankfurt	1	Schalke 04	2
Bayer Leverkusen	2	VfL Wolfsburg	2
VfB Stuttgart	3	Hamburg SV	1

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mallorca	13	7	4	2	14	5	25
Dep Coruna	13	6	5	2	[illegible]	12	23
Celta Vigo	13	5	7	1	23	14	22
Valencia	13	7	1	5	22	15	22
Atletico Madrid	13	6	3	4	27	14	21
Real Zaragoza	13	6	2	5	19	18	20
Real Madrid	12	5	4	3	24	18	19
Barcelona	13	5	4	4	21	15	19
Real Sociedad	13	5	4	4	17	17	19
Oviedo	13	5	3	5	16	17	18
Athletic Bilbao	13	5	2	6	18	20	17
Real Betis	13	5	2	6	8	15	17
Villarreal	13	4	4	5	18	18	16
Rac Santander	13	4	4	5	15	17	16
Valladolid	13	4	3	6	17	17	15
Salamanca	12	4	3	5	12	19	15
Espanyol	13	3	5	5	13	14	14
Alaves	13	3	3	7	9	15	12
Tenerife	13	2	5	6	16	21	11
Extremadura	13	3	2	8	8	22	11

Villarreal	2	Valladolid	1
Oviedo	1	Racing Santander	0
Alaves	0	Valencia	1
Tenerife	1	Real Zaragoza	1
Saturday:			
Atletico Madrid	0	Athletic Bilbao	0
Mallorca	1	Real Betis	0
Real Sociedad	2	Extremadura	0
Espanyol	0	Real Madrid	0
Deportivo Coruna	2	Barcelona	1
Salamanca	1	Celta Vigo	1

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bordeaux	17	12	2	3	33	14	38
Marseille	17	11	5	1	31	13	38
Rennes	17	8	4	5	21	19	28
Monaco	17	8	3	6	26	17	27
Lyon	17	7	6	4	23	17	27
Nantes	17	7	5	5	22	19	26
Paris SG	17	6	6	5	18	13	24
Montpellier	17	7	3	7	30	26	24
Lens	17	7	2	8	22	20	23
Bastia	17	7	2	8	22	20	23
Auxerre	17	6	5	6	20	21	23
Strasbourg	17	5	6	6	14	18	21
Nancy	17	5	5	7	17	22	20
Metz	17	4	7	6	14	19	19
Le Havre	17	3	6	8	12	21	15
Lorient	17	3	5	9	12	24	14
Sochaux	17	3	5	9	14	32	14
Toulouse	17	2	7	8	11	25	13

Friday			
Sochaux	0	Lorient	1
Lens	3	Strasbourg	0
Paris St Germain	0	Toulouse	0
Nantes	2	Bastia	0
Montpellier	2	Le Havre	0
Metz	0	Rennes	0

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	15	12	2	1	35	13	38
Vitesse Arnhem	16	10	2	4	33	22	32
Ajax	17	9	5	3	36	15	32
Heerenveen	16	9	4	3	27	18	31
T Enschede	16	8	5	3	27	18	29
Roda Kerkrade	16	8	3	5	25	19	27
PSV Eindhoven	17	7	6	4	41	31	27
NEC Nijmegen	16	7	5	4	27	22	26
AZ Alkmaar	17	5	9	3	23	22	24
Willem II Tilburg	17	6	4	7	30	34	22
Utrecht	17	6	4	7	28	30	22
MVV Maastricht	17	5	3	9	19	28	18
Leeuwarden	19	4	6	9	19	32	18
Doetinchem	17	3	8	6	18	28	17
Fortuna Sittard	17	3	4	10	16	30	13
S Rotterdam	17	3	3	11	17	33	12
NAC Breda	14	2	4	8	18	25	10
RKC Waalwijk	16	1	3	12	18	34	6

Feyenoord	1	NEC Nijmegen	0
Sparta Rotterdam	1	Leeuwarden	2
Ajax Amsterdam	1	MVV Maastricht	1
NAC Breda	3	PSV Eindhoven	4
AZ Alkmaar	1	Twente Enschede	1
Utrecht	2	Doetinchem	1

Saturday: Postponed: Roda JC Kerkrade v Heerenveen

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Maritimo 2 Campomaiorense 1; Vitoria Guimaraes 1 Farense 0; Alverca 1 Boa Vista 1; Uniao Leiria 0 Estrela Amadora 1; Boavista 1 Rio Ave 0. **Saturday:** Porto 1 Chaves 0. **Friday:** Salgueiros 2 Sporting Lisbon 1; Benfica 2 Vitoria Setubal 0. **Leading standings:** 1 FC Porto P14 Pts32; 2 Boavista 14-31; 3 Sporting 14-29.

AUSTRIAN LEAGUE: Rapid Vienna 1 Graz AK 0. **Saturday:** SV Salzburg 1 Lustenau 0. **Postponed:** Ried v Austria Vienna.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Anderlecht 4 Kortrijk 0; Genk 2 Harelbeke 2. **Saturday:** Ostend 4 Eendracht Aalst 1; Ghent 2 Lokeren 1; Charleroi 1 Lommel 1; Excelsior Mouscron 2 Germinal Ekeren 2. **Postponed:** Standard Liege v Lierse; Beveren v Sint-Truiden.

First Division

Bruce frets after sale of Saunders to Benfica

Joe Bernstein

SHEFFIELD United have agreed to let Dean Saunders join Benfica for £500,000, leaving their manager Steve Bruce worried about the lack of firepower at Bramall Lane.

Bruce was forced to withdraw Saunders from his line-up to face Bristol City on Saturday after discovering before kick-off that the 34-year-old Welsh striker was on his way to Portugal.

After watching his side lose 2-0 to a team in the bottom three, Bruce admitted: "We're resigned to losing Dean. I learned at 12.50pm that the club had agreed a fee for him. Without him, we are woefully short of forward power. I don't know if I will have any money to spend but if not we could be in for a long, hard season." Bruce was forced to sell his centre-forward Gareth Taylor to Manchester City a fortnight ago and Saunders' departure is likely to make the vacant assistant-manager's job at Manchester United even more attractive.



Ball . . . forced to sell

A controversial penalty from Mickey Bell and seventh goal of the season from Ade Akinbiyi gave City their first win in six games. Nicky Henry was sent off — the sixth player from Bramall Lane to see red this season.

The entire playing staff at Portsmouth are likely to be put on the transfer list today, against the wishes of their manager Alan Ball. The chairman Martin Gregory — who is in talks to sell the club to a consortium headed by the rock star Brian Howe — has told Ball he needs to raise £1 million to solve the club's short-term financial problems. The striker John Aloisi and the midfield player Sammy Igoe are the players most likely to attract interest.

Portsmouth, who defeated Crewe 2-0 with goals from Alan McLoughlin and Steve Claridge, last week had to borrow £150,000 from the Professional Footballers' Association to help pay the players' wages but Ball is not delighted at the prospect of losing some of his top assets.

"I've made my feelings on this very clear — I don't want to sell John Aloisi or any of the others. But if the chairman decides to do something else behind my back then that's up to him," he said.

Overseas round-up

Reprieve for Inter as Silvestre arrives in the nick of time

INTERNAZIONALE's new coach Mircea Lucescu was spared the indignity of a losing start by the substitute Mickael Silvestre, who scored their injury-time equaliser at lowly Vicenza yesterday.

Inter fell behind in the 20th minute, when Pasquale Luiso converted a penalty, and they eventually lost their cool.

First Taribo West threw his shirt to the ground after being replaced by Silvestre and Ivan Zamorano was sent off in the 68th minute for kicking Massimo Beghetto.

The home side had been reduced to 10 men in the 68th minute, but Ronaldo came off the bench and crossed for the Frenchman to level the scores, at which point Vicenza's Marco Schenardi was also sent off.

Lazio's Marcelo Salas struck nine minutes from time for the only goal of the game at Juventus. The champions — now without a win in five games, their worst run under the coach Marcello Lippi — are in sixth place but seven points behind the leaders Fiorentina, who beat visiting Bologna 1-0 on Saturday when Gabriel Batistuta hit the target.

George Weah, Leonardo and Oliver Bierhoff scored the goals in Milan's 3-0 home win over Udinese. Their success keeps them in fourth spot, one point behind Roma and Parma.

Hundreds of fans rampaged before and after Saturday's Greek League match between Olympiakos and Panathinaikos, who play Arsenal on Wednesday. Cars were smashed, police attacked and seats torn up at the Olympic Stadium. At least 10 people were injured, some of them taxi passengers who were beaten. No arrests were reported.

Barcelona's 2-1 defeat at Deportivo La Coruna left them six points adrift of Mallorca and increased the pressure on their Dutch coach, Louis van Gaal. The leaders beat Real Betis 1-0.

European form

Uefa Cup Tues
Parma (1) v Rangers (1), 1.30pm
Parma won 2-0 at Sampdoria on Saturday.
TV Live on BBC2 at 1.15pm.
Liverpool (1) v Celta Vigo (3), 7.45pm
Celta Vigo drew 1-1 at Salamanca on Saturday.
TV Live on Channel 5 at 7.15pm.
Champions League Wed
Manchester United v Bayern Munich, 7.45pm
Bayern drew 2-2 at VfL Bochum on Friday.
TV Live on ITV at 7.30pm.
Panathinaikos v Arsenal, 7.45pm
Panathinaikos lost 4-2 at home to arch-rivals Olympiakos on Saturday.
TV Highlights on ITV at 11.25pm, in full at 2.10am.

FA Cup round-up

Patmore ensures surprise party goes with a swing

YEOVIL Town's hero Warren Patmore could be forgiven for claiming the most popular FA Cup shock of the weekend was par for the course.

Patmore's goal against Second Division Northampton Town not only sealed an 18th league victim for the most famous giantkillers in football. It also gave Patmore sweet revenge on the defeated manager Ian Atkins, who released him from Northampton three years ago because he felt the striker was more interested in golf than football.

Patmore hung up his boots in 1995 to become a golf club professional, but resumed playing this season and sent the Huish crowd wild by adding to Steve Thompson's goal in a 2-0 victory, achieved one month short of the 50th anniversary of their legendary win against Sunderland.

"The big problem with Warren at the time was that he couldn't decide between football and golf and there was no room for anyone with divided loyalties," said a chastened Atkins, whose team put out West Ham in the Worthington Cup earlier this season.

Luton Town's manager Lennie Lawrence was seething after his Worthington Cup quarter-finalists lost 2-1 at home to the Nationwide League's bottom club Hull City.

"We were second best in every department and didn't deserve a thing," he said.

Hull struck first through the YTS debutant Ben Morley. Steve Davis equalised before Rob Dewhurst scored the winning goal for the visitors.

Luton's Worthington Cup adventure ended in a 3-0 defeat at Sunderland last Tuesday night. "This week has been a massive disappointment and anti-climax," acknowledged Lawrence.

Premiership



Wide boy . . . Julian Joachim steers the ball away from goal under challenge from United's Gary Neville with Peter Schmeichel adopting an arm's-length attitude PHOTOGRAPH: SHAUN BOTTERILL

Aston Villa 1 Manchester United 1

Summit overshadowed by Europe

David Lacey



A BREAKAWAY European league, sufficient unto itself, would have reduced the Premier League to a mere cipher. The threat will finally disappear this week if the clubs give their backing to Uefa's proposed expansion of the Champions League, but it is still hard to avoid the feeling that beneath the Premiership's feet the earth is about to tremble.

Saturday's match at Villa Park may, worryingly, have been the shape of things to come. It was billed as a climactic confrontation between the team that had led the league for three months, Aston Villa, and a side poised to knock them off the top, Manchester United. New pretenders against seasoned contenders, how could the occasion fail?

The reality was that as summits go this match was about as intoxicating as high tea with buttered scones, satisfying up to a point but hardly a feast of footballing fervour. And one of the reasons for the lowness of the key in which much of the game was pitched had to be the fact that on Wednesday United are playing Bayern Munich in a decisive Champions League fixture.

Make no mistake, Alex Ferguson wanted to win at Villa Park. He fielded the side which will almost certainly start against Bayern and his team scented victory after Paul Scholes had given them the lead at the start of the second half, but once Julian Joachim had scored for Aston Villa prudence prevailed.

A draw away from home against the league leaders was always going to be a satisfying result for United, who if Villa lose at Chelsea on Wednesday could go top at Tottenham on Saturday since Arsenal do not visit Villa Park until the following afternoon.

Yet, even if one accepted the replacement of Andy Cole by Nicky Butt as a logical move to prevent Alan Thompson, Ian Taylor and Lee Hendrie sweeping Villa to victory, the lasting impression of United was of a team with one eye on the tachometer, checking the revs.

United's performance was as patient and possessive as it will need to be on Wednesday night and to that extent this was a useful rehearsal. The Premiership should not be a backstage drama but since the new Champions League will involve teams playing up to 17 matches it may well become one, particularly during the two group phases.

The considerable strength of the United squad already gives Ferguson the power of a general capable of conducting simultaneous campaigns with armies of comparable strength. The United team Spurs encounter this weekend will be rather different to the side they knocked out of the Worthington Cup last Wednesday.

Of the other championship contenders only Chelsea have remotely comparable options and a lack of depth may soon be Aston Villa's undoing. Here, while Ferguson could afford to give Ryan Giggs, newly recovered from a hamstring injury, some match practice in the second half and at the same time rest Jesper Blomqvist, John Gregory had no serious alternatives as potential match-winners.

Suspension following collywobbles had again deprived Villa of the maverick talents of Stan Collymore but the absence of Paul Merson with a back injury was more fundamental to their failure to exploit a growing territorial superiority in the latter part of the match. While Jaap Stam had an excellent game against Dion Dublin the quality of Merson's crosses would surely have given the Manchester United centre-back a more testing afternoon.

Stam found it harder to cope with the speed and industry of Julian Joachim but again it needed the subtlety of angle which Merson brings to his passes to make the advantage tell. As it was Joachim, despite his three goals in two games as Collymore's stand-in, is essentially a worker bee without a regular sting. Several times his poor first touch let him down in scoring situations.

The goal Joachim did get was a slick piece of opportunism which punished Stam and Gary Neville for their failure to close the striker down after Dublin's chest had laid the ball off some 20 yards from goal. Even then Peter Schmeichel would probably have saved Joachim's shot had it not taken a steep deflection off Denis Irwin.

Until then Schmeichel had had little to do and when Scholes opened the second half by scoring through the legs of Michael Oakes, the Villa goalkeeper having palmed out an excellent low centre from Cole, a change of Premiership leader beckoned. But Joachim's equaliser revitalised Aston Villa and the United goalkeeper was well beaten just past the hour when Thompson's rocket of a free-kick rebounded fiercely from a post.

There was enough passion in United's mood for Dwight Yorke to mark a generally subdued return to old haunts by getting himself booked for protesting, with justification, that he had been wrongly flagged offside.

In almost the same breath the referee Mike Riley then cautioned Irwin for a foul after the Irishman had won the ball. Not that any of this disturbed the air of sanguineness which Ferguson and his players wore all afternoon.

Steve Harrison, the Aston Villa coach, consoled himself with the thought that "it's satisfying knowing that we should have beaten Manchester United". Most managers and coaches would find this deeply dissatisfying and Villa have now dropped seven points in their last three matches.

They will not be alone in hoping that the Champions League is still distracting United next spring.

Match stats

	Villa	Man U
Possession	46%	54%
Attempts on target	4	5
Attempts off target	9	2
Corners	6	4
Fouls	12	11
Offsides	1	6
Bookings	1	3

Tottenham Hotspur 2 Liverpool 1

Houllier calls for strength and solidity

Martin Thorpe sees Spurs' sixth win in 11 games under George Graham

THERE is, clearly, no chance that the new managerial regimes at Tottenham and Liverpool will allow a little learning to become a dangerous thing. With the Bootroom gone, Gérard Houllier could do with a Dr Martens warehouse to accommodate all his thoughts on the changes required to make Liverpool great again.

At White Hart Lane sweat has finally replaced tears but the blood has yet to course through George Graham's veins at the thrill of a job complete. "There are good signs in the team," the Spurs manager said afterwards, "but I'm not trying to fool anybody. Probably within the next year there will be a lot of changes. I need more talented players.

"In the meantime the players here have still got some way to go to learn what I want from them."

If ever one doubted that behind that familiar grin lies a hard heart, then remember that these players have beaten Liverpool twice in a month and knocked Manchester United out of the League Cup.

But Houllier, a more soft-focused Frenchman, demands an equally gale-force wind of change. "I don't know any team that can succeed unless the defensive aspect of the game is perfect," he said. "Because of the type of football we want to play we need strength, solidity and composure when we lose the ball. The players have got to improve this, and they will."

In the meantime both men struggle to instil new thoughts into the cast members they have. Graham jigged and shouted from the touchline with the manic energy of a stock-market trader as he pulled players back into position.

Houllier, too, found that the best-laid plans had been left on the training ground. "We started well," he said, "but then we played far too deep and hit long balls. At half-time I reminded our players that we've got to play our game — to pass, and move and show and push, and as soon as we did it was a different match."

In the end Spurs could thank their new-found resilience for securing the points. Christian Gross always talked about hard work, but his successor in the hot seat at White Hart Lane has succeeded in turning words into action.

After a bright start from a Liverpool side depleted by injuries and suspensions, Spurs went ahead after 26 minutes when Ruel Fox's shot deflected off a red-shirted player.

The manner of the goal sounds fortuitous, but it was deserved after an impressive period of inventive domination from Spurs adorned by the sand-wedge crosses of David Ginola.

Although Vegard Heggem subdued the Frenchman in the second half, Spurs increased their lead through another slice of luck, when Jamie Carragher put through his own goal as he tried to clear a cross.

But instead of deflating Liverpool, it lifted them and after 54 minutes their growing confidence was rewarded when Patrick Berger's 20-yard free-kick gave Ian Walker, restored as Tottenham keeper much to the disgust of Espen Baardsen, no chance.

There were subsequent close shaves at either end but eventually Tottenham held on for their sixth win in 11 games under Graham, an encouraging tally to be tested by forthcoming games at home to a Premiership-strength United and away at Chelsea.

Meanwhile Liverpool go into tomorrow's return tie with Celta Vigo trying to undo the defensive damage of the away leg. If they could win, though, Houllier might feel that his message is getting through.

● Steffen Iversen had an operation on his jaw in Oslo yesterday following an accidental collision with David James. He will be out for several weeks.

Derby County 0 Arsenal 0

Home guard save Gunners

Russell Thomas

NOTHING lasts for ever, conceded Arsène Wenger, although he promises a degree of permanency by finally signing a new contract in the next 48 hours. Arsenal's manager is less concerned with the small print than the playing giants who have imprinted themselves on Highbury history.

After dredging out a draw that said much more about Arsenal's character than calibre, Wenger cited Steve Bould and David Seaman among those who are "the real symbols of spirit. But they have to stop some day. That's my biggest worry."

In the continued absence of Tony Adams, Bould — a very admirable deputy for the Arsenal armband — Martin Keown and Seaman compensated for inadequacies elsewhere in locking the door on a Derby side who have almost forgotten how to win at home. It was a contest where defences, like the cold, took an increasing grip; a first half that poured chances at either end somehow turned to a second period of aridity.

Yet Wenger senses stability, indeed new opportunity, at home if not abroad. After the 3,000-mile round diversion to Athens, Arsenal will re-dedicate themselves to the pursuit of the Premiership title which this Frenchman, despite the allure of Europe's top prize, has made the priority since pre-season training.

It may take an incurable optimist to find solace from bleak midwinter statistics of zero wins in six games and one goal in almost 10½ hours' football. Clearly, Wenger is sufficiently imbued with the Arsenal spirit to find strength in adversity — just as his team did in late December last year. The manager pointed out the parallels. "We had a spell then when we couldn't score goals," said Wenger. "But we then found a good balance tactically, we won important games and the difficult period created a good spirit in the team."

Wenger did not have to repeat that Arsenal remain only four points adrift of the leaders instead of 10 in mid-December last season.

The comparisons in terms of injury casualties cloud optimism however, with Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira and Dennis Bergkamp unlikely to return before December 20, when Arsenal entertain a resurgent Leeds after next Sunday's visit to Aston Villa.

Partly through injuries, and the European suspensions, Wenger's squad will be even weaker in Athens than here. Marc Overmars and Remi Garde, despite fitness doubts, simply may have to play against Panathinaikos in a game which, for Arsenal, represents only a timely exercise in bonding.

At Pride Park, Paulo Wanchope started with a strut and ended with that trademark snail-like walk of despondency as the three old Arsenal redoubtables — Bould, Keown and Seaman, average age 34 — clamped down.

As to Arsenal's immediate future, Wenger on Saturday evening promised to end the contract debate once and for all by signing. "I would say Monday or Tuesday." Once again he vowed: "My word is the same is the same as my signature."

With the Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona watching developments concerning Wenger's future at Highbury with interest, Arsenal supporters will want the evidence to be provided sooner rather than later.

Leeds United 4 West Ham United 0

Lack of defence leaves Redknapp looking guilty

Michael Walker sees Leeds, 33-1 outsiders, move into third place

THOSE who argue that Premiership, in particular, and English football, in general, is cheap tat masquerading as an expensive brand name should contact Harry Redknapp. For Redknapp, normally a reliable and honest witness, departed Elland Road on Saturday evening clutching evidence to support this theory — a recording of this match.

Goals, Pies and Videotape would no doubt be the appropriately ironic and supposedly humorous title in this age of cleverness, although if the recording was actually submitted in a court of law it would have to be called A Crap Defence.

The prosecution would like that. It would be Exhibit A in their argument, a persuasive example of the one aspect of the English game that consistently undermines the televisual hype and mocks the large numbers paying inflated prices to participate in a phenomenon — the absence of defenders who can defend and look comfortable doing something they are meant to practise every week of their careers.

By common consent Rio Ferdinand is the eloquent contradiction of this notion but Lord Ferdinand of Rio was missing here, nursing an ankle, and Javier Margas was summoned for only the third time since joining West Ham in the summer.

During the Coup du Monde, Margas was a man who could tackle in any language, but in West Yorkshire he played like a Chilean on the verge of extradition. Any more efforts like this and he may find Lord Redknapp of Bow voting to send him home.

Margas, it has to be said, was not helped by the pieman Neil Ruddock. Only seven minutes had gone when the two combined to gift Leeds the lead, an Ian Harte cross first slicing off Ruddock's head before Margas "tidied up" by scuffing the ball to Lee Bowyer who delivered a classy finish from 20 yards.

Still, it was just one error, West Ham were third in the Premiership table, they must have some resilience about them. But no, these were imitation Hammers who would have been five down by half-time but for Shaka Hislop and two goal-line clearances by Stan Lazaridis. The interval offered the chance of regrouping but three more Leeds goals came in 17 minutes midway through the second half and only one of them, Bowyer's rasping second, was well-constructed.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink did the running and Bowyer ended a move that he started with a crisp, rising drive while on the move. Robert Molenaar then profited from an ugly goalmouth scramble and Hasselbaink struck the fourth from 25 yards following more unconvincing West Ham defending, this time by the substitute John Moncur.



Well held . . . Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink shrugs off Margas

In between, Ruddock was sent off for a clumsy tackle and not until four minutes from time did Paul Robinson make a save for Leeds. It came from Frank Lampard junior, West Ham's only outfield player of note.

Although he did not say so, Redknapp's excuse was spinelessness — Ferdinand being accompanied by Eyal Berkovic and Paul Kitson on the treatment table.

Leeds leap-frogged three places above them to occupy third place and it is to be hoped they put up more of a fight than West Ham did to keep it.

But it is difficult to assess young Leeds after this and, even though their captain Lucas Radebe talked of a championship challenge afterwards, the bookmakers make them 33-1. Third in the table and 33-1 — it is not a sign of quality in depth, is it?

Leicester City 2 Southampton 0

Saints seek sanctuary as O'Neill builds bridge over mildly troubled waters

Trevor Haylett

SOMEONE who has had recent dealings at Leicester with Martin O'Neill said last week that the Irishman was exhibiting Brian Clough-like characteristics in his ability to make himself scarce while still retaining an unshakeable hold on playing matters.

Certainly there is more than a hint of his old Nottingham Forest manager's mischief-making in the way O'Neill routinely takes his directors and supporters to task while emerging with his status at the club stronger than before. At what other ground do fans chorus the manager's name with such gusto, and long before they get round to their star players?

At the moment Dave Jones must long for a slice of the O'Neill magic, charm, good fortune, call it what you will. Anything to change Southampton's luck. Last week he railed against refereeing standards and when on Saturday he ran into a creditable official for whom the notion of common sense is not an outmoded concept, it led to his team falling behind.

A typically brusque Mark Hughes challenge on Muzzy Izzet was severe enough to incur a yellow card but first Dermot Gallagher allowed Neil Lennon to carry the attack on and slide a pass to Emile Heskey who made light of Jason Dodd's challenge before sidestepping Paul Jones. "We would protest if we had been brought back for a free-kick in our favour so we can't complain now," said the Southampton manager.

So Southampton returned to the foot of the Premiership. A small squad and slender funds means injuries hit harder than most and with Egil Ostenstad in desperate need of a striking partner the news that David Hirst needs another three months' rehabilitation was hardly welcome.

Matt Le Tissier had the chance to make a fight of it in the last 17 minutes but blazed embarrassingly high from six yards. By then a Leicester team whose own lack of attacking options saw Matt Elliott pushed up alongside Heskey, were two goals ahead, Steve Guppy's inswinging free-kick enabling Steve Walsh to head home.

O'Neill chided those spectators seated next to his wife who had aimed "vitriolic" comments at the team during the game against Blackburn and who have become expectant of success. "It's a doddle isn't it?" said the manager, reminding them of the team's achievements. "Actually it's not at all, it's bloody hard work and I don't think there are a set of players in the country who work harder."

هكذا من الأصل

Clogger

A sideways glance at soccer



Their kit don't fit

No. 57 Alan Shearer

And they said he would never be a manager. With style like this — displayed during the World Cup — and a passion for golf, the sheet metal worker's son has almost all the required qualities already.



Kidd joined Harris anxious Neal prompted Gemmill worked

The Faithful Retainers XI They seemed born to shout in the boss's ear.

Brian Kidd	Not surgically [illegible]
Frank Lampard	Beefs up the [illegible]
Viv Anderson	Spiffily combi[illegible]
Allan Harris	Anxiously [illegible]
Archie Gemmill	Long-term [illegible]
Ricardo Moran	Perpetual [illegible]
Phil Neal	Prompted [illegible]
Colin Harvey	Fortunes [illegible]
Maurice Setters	Jack Charlton [illegible]
Don Howe	Always seemed [illegible]
Terry McDermott	Went grey in [illegible]

A life in pictures

The many moods of Arsène Wenger

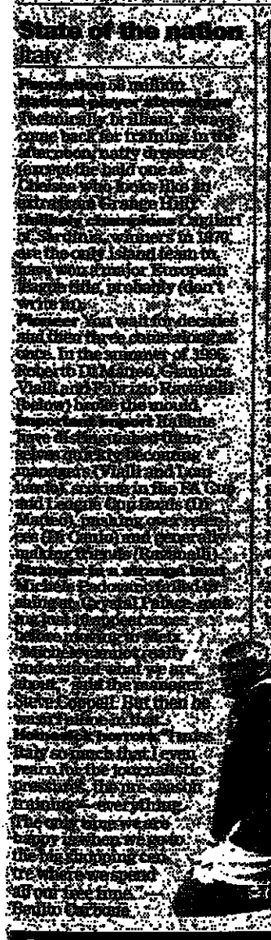


Panache Distraught Jovial Encouragement

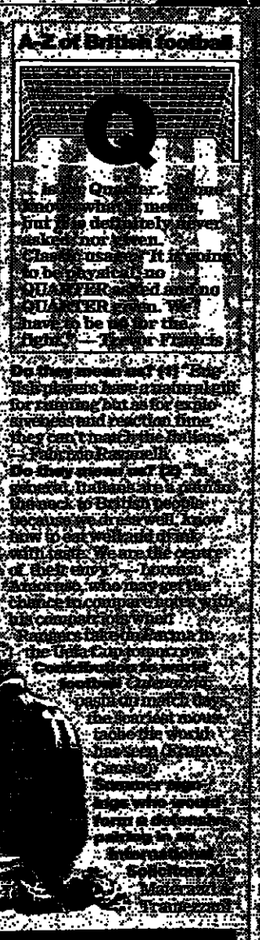


Edgy Incredulous Ecstatic

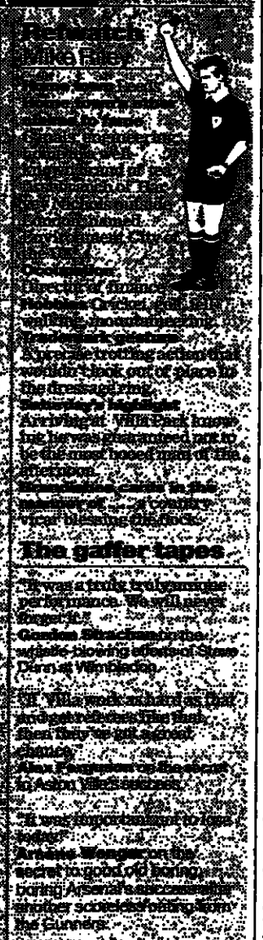
Ask the experts



State of the nation



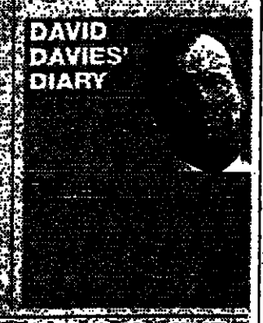
A-Z of British football



Referee's whistle

Cup of winners





DAVID DAVIES' DIARY

Premiership



Quiet, please . . . Tony Parkes, Rovers' caretaker-manager for the last time, and Brian Kidd get a talking-to from Graham Poll MICHAEL STEELE

Blackburn Rovers 1 Charlton Athletic 0

Kidd to don gloves in winning mode

Ian Ross sees a move off the bottom cheer Rovers' new manager

THIS morning, as he takes the first step on a journey which will carry him to fulfillment or unemployment, it is to be hoped that those around Brian Kidd do the decent thing and advise him of where lie the potholes which litter the route he has chosen.

Kidd's boyish face has never looked quite as child-like as it did on Saturday lunchtime. Quite often the price of ambition is isolation and loneliness, and despite his last experience of management — two months at Preston in 1986 — the new manager of Blackburn Rovers looked for all the world like a little boy lost.

Public speaking has never been Kidd's forte and as he introduced himself to the media by way of a prepared speech he came to resemble a first-time best man who feared his script was not quite up to the job.

Kidd's sense of unease was almost tangible and it may well be that from a tabloid perspective his tenure will serve to make Kenny Dalglish's reign at Ewood Park come to represent the halcyon days of verbal diarrhoea.

But Kidd was tempted away from Manchester United not to deliver edifying monologues but to help lead the Blackburn lemmings back from the edge of the cliff.

"It's a big job and a huge responsibility," he admitted, as if to prove he is already conversant with the art of the managerial understatement.

"There has been interest in me in the past but this time I just felt as though it was right. I'm not getting any younger, I just wanted to give it a go."

Blackburn's benefactor Jack Walker has deep pockets, nimble fingers and a generous demeanour so, depending upon which source you trust, Kidd will be handed £25 million, £35 million or £40 million to throw at a problem of someone else's making.

It could be more, for on Saturday Walker was found to be repeating his famous phrase "whatever it takes" when asked precisely how much the new manager would be permitted to invest.

The tools with which Kidd will initially be asked to fashion something meaningful are, it must be said, of rather dubious quality and temperament.

Roy Hodgson's legacy to a club who neither mourned his passing nor the cruel manner of its execution, is to have created a squad so bitter and twisted that it has lost sight of its primary objectives.

That those players won this game was due neither to Kidd's arrival nor to their skills, but to simple good fortune. Charlton Athletic actually seemed more affected by the sight of Kidd's gesturing on the touchline than Blackburn and were settling back to protect a point when they were undone with 15 minutes left.

In a perverse sport it was always probable that the £7.25 million striker Kevin Davies would score for Kidd as, among other things, it was his failure to so do for Hodgson which had prompted Uncle Jack to write out another redundancy cheque.

Davies's effort from 25 yards should have been saved but fumbling tame shots is becoming second nature to Sasa Ilic and once his careless fingers had done their work, the issue was decided.

"He had a word with all the players before the game and he just told me not to worry about everything and to enjoy my football," Davies said of Kidd. "He looks like a good manager to me, and I think he will make a big impact here."

Predictably, the most sensible and pertinent words about Blackburn's current plight came from the mouth of their caretaker-manager on Saturday, the astute Tony Parkes.

"There will be no honeymoon period for Brian," he said. "He's straight in at the deep end. He needs results and points straightaway."

And so, praise be, the new boy will not be inheriting a club at the Premiership's foot this morning, his first day at the office.

● Martin Edwards yesterday denied Brian Kidd's claims that he had not been offered a new deal to stay at Old Trafford. The Manchester United chief executive insisted that he did make an increased pay offer to the former United No. 2. "Brian was on a very good contract anyway which was renewed last summer in a new four-year agreement. We sat down with him and certainly did offer him more money, there is no question about that."

Edwards also denied any suggestion of intervention by the television company BSkyB, which has lodged a £623.4 million bid for the club.

"That is absolute nonsense," he said. "I did, out of sheer courtesy, speak to [Sky's representative] Mark Booth about it, and he gave me his backing to make any deal with Brian Kidd that I thought was suitable."

End of the drought

£7.25m Kevin Davies' Premiership season to date

Minutes on pitch	636
Headed goals	0
Goals with feet	1
Attempts on target	8
Attempts off target	19
Passing	
Goal assists	1
Passes attempted	247
Success rate	63%
Crossing	
Crosses attempted	7
Success rate	0%
Defence	
Tackles attempted	28
Success rate	39%
Discipline	
Fouls conceded	17
Offsides	10
Cards (yellow-red)	2 – 0



Everton 0 Chelsea 0

Dennis none the wiser

Derek Potter

"MAGIC Memories — out on video now," proclaims an advertisement in the Liverpool Echo. Maybe it should be subtitled: Everton — the 10 best corners. It does not seem that long ago that Chelsea were the music-hall joke team. Recent events at Goodison Park have not been too fmny.

But Chelsea are a decent team, and the signs from a game of five cautions and two dismissals indicate that Everton are on the mend.

"You have to admire what Chelsea have achieved; it's been fantastic," said Bill Kenwright, the vice-chairman of Everton and the man hoping to acquire the club from Peter Johnson. "I don't know how long it will take us to match them, but I'm very optimistic."

Another win to make it three in succession would have helped, but after being second best in the first half as well as losing Dennis Wise for a second bookable offence, Chelsea found another gear. With Duncan Ferguson gone, Everton's biggest need is a striker. If the home side had punched their weight Chelsea would have lost, as they should if only to punish Wise for his latest bout of indiscretion.

The Chelsea captain, who has already been suspended for seven games this season, seems certain to pick up more than the mandatory one-match ban this time. The FA, after it receives the referee's report, will probably sideline him for at least two extra games.

Wise was sent off in a pre-season friendly and started the season with a three-match suspension. He then picked up a four-game ban after he was dismissed for a two-foot tackle in a League Cup tie against Aston Villa.

However Wise received support from an unexpected quarter this time. "He was a bit unfortunate," said Everton's manager Walter Smith. "There was nothing bad going on out there."

Chelsea also have a concern about Gustavo Poyet, who was substituted in the 33rd minute. "He has a knee problem but it doesn't look as bad as we first thought," said the manager Gianluca Vialli.

Danny Cadamarteri was Everton's bright spark, Ibrahima Bakayoko the most disappointing in the transition from air to ground combat since Ferguson left.

Some eccentric and smart goalkeeping by Ed de Goey and one mis-kick in the first half to waste Michael Ball's master-stroke ensured Cadamarteri would be unrewarded and also guaranteed the first goalless draw between the teams at Goodison since 1937.

Roberto di Matteo hit an upright and Tore Andre Flo missed two late chances when it was 10 men apiece, Richard Dunne having walked for two bookable offences.

"Just to warn you on the way home, it finished Spurs 2 Liverpool 1," said Goodison's Tannoy announcer. It was a parochial reaction. Nationally it was a good results' day for Chelsea, a point richly deserved.

Wimbledon 2 Coventry 1

Dash of Euell adds spice to Kinnear's maturing mix

Adam Sills

ROTATING systems are not foreign to Selhurst Park, where Wimbledon and Crystal Palace swap places each week. But Joe Kinnear boasts he has transferred this policy to his squad which, thanks to a flourishing youth system and some canny buys, now has depth as well as the ever robust Dons' strength.

Jason Euell, a product of the Wimbledon set-up, emphasised their flexibility on Saturday, scoring a brace after being shifted to a striking role at half-time when Kinnear replaced the club's joint top scorer Marcus Gayle with the recent arrival from Port Vale, Gareth Ainsworth.

Changes in personnel have made it possible for the Dons to maintain their charge for a European spot on two fronts, with a Worthington Cup semi-final against Tottenham to come and league form which has put them in the frame for a Uefa Cup place.

"Most of our squad are on long-term contracts with only Efan Ekoku looking to get away," Kinnear said after watching his side climb to eighth. "We were close to Europe a couple of years ago but the squad wasn't strong enough. I've got more players now and that has helped.

"We don't underestimate the task but I would like to think we could make the next step into Europe this year."

It is a tribute to Kinnear that his club can think in such lofty terms. Just 3,270 watched this fixture on a similarly freezing day in 1991, and Saturday's crowd of 11,717, albeit the smallest in the Premiership, indicates that the fans believe the good times are here to stay.

Also likely to remain is Kinnear, despite last week again being linked with a vacant managerial post, this time at Blackburn. Sam Hammam has offered his faithful servant a directorship once his days in the dug-out are finished and Kinnear seems ready to accept.

He certainly has the backing of his players. Ainsworth, who revitalised the Dons on Saturday, said: "He is part of this place. If anything did happen, the players would be the first to know and at the moment there is no unrest. Hopefully the club can stick together and Joe will stay here for a lot longer yet."

The future of Kinnear's counterpart Gordon Strachan may well depend on whether he can find a replacement for Dion Dublin. Coventry have scored just five goals in eight away games this season and had to rely on a Gary McAllister penalty after Darren Huckerby had been felled by Chris Perry to edge in front.

Strachan was fuming after what he called a "truly unique" refereeing display. He felt his side should have had two penalties after Euell had scored his fifth and sixth goals of the season to leave Coventry with a relegation dog-fight ready to bare its teeth.

League's head man calls meeting to test waters

THE Premier League chief executive Peter Leaver has called a clear-the-air meeting following dissent over his appointments of the former BSkyB executives Sam Chisholm and David Chance as media advisers.

Leaver, who has completed just 17 months as the chief executive of the Premiership's governing body of 20 club chairmen, is said to be considering resigning unless there is a powerful expression of faith shown in him when they meet in London on Thursday.

Six member clubs, believed to be Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds and Wimbledon, are thought to have expressed reservations about salary inducements offered to Chisholm and Chance.



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Monday December 7 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

The Tyne-Tees derby



Flat-back one . . . Gary Pallister, the Middlesbrough defender, is in no position to stop Newcastle's Andreas Andersson making progress at The Riverside PHOTOGRAPH: BEN RADFORD

Premiership: Middlesbrough 2 Newcastle United 2

Dab-hand Dabizas earns stripes

Michael Walker

A PULSATING 90 minutes down by the Riverside that featured four goals, countless chances and two streakers, ended with local pride, prejudice and, most importantly, points shared. All that was lacking in a compelling game, Alan Shearer apart, was a partridge in a pear tree.

At the final whistle some home fans booed, but their annoyance subsided quickly. Disappointed to have seen their side surrender a lead twice, the second time only seven minutes from the end, they had to accept that this was all that a derby should be — fast and passionate. There were also moments of genuine skill, Duncan Ferguson providing most of them in the Newcastle forward line and Paul Gascoigne, playing against his old club for the first time in 10 years, directing Boro's play with intelligence and restraint. He came off shortly before the end but appeared to have enjoyed a match which began with his son, Regan, as the mascot.

However, the major blemish for Boro for a second Sunday running was the forsaking of two points late on. Last time it had been Nicolas Anelka's 90th-minute equaliser at Highbury; yesterday it was Nicos Dabizas's looping 83rd-minute header which saw another two points relinquished.

Middlesbrough are still unbeaten at home in more than 13 months but this was their ninth draw in 16 Premiership games this season. And while that stability is welcome, their manager Bryan Robson was disappointed.

"They had more possession, but we created all the decent chances. I don't think Mark Schwarzer has really had a save to make," he said.

"In the first half I wasn't pleased, but in the second half we stepped it up and their keeper has made two or three outstanding stops."

While it was possible to see the honesty of that perspective it was also possible to agree with Ruud Gullit's analysis: "They were only dangerous from free-kicks and corners."

"I thought we played well. We tried to play football. We've taken a step forward. A couple of weeks ago I don't think we'd have got an equaliser," he added. Yet Newcastle did so twice, a measure of blossoming spirit as much as Gullit's tactical nous. Confidence is returning, as witnessed by the reaction to Andy Townsend's 13th-minute opener. Gascoigne exploited slack marking at a corner and found Townsend 16 yards out; receiving at an awkward height, he scooped a forceful volley into the top corner. Middlesbrough, though, lost momentum and with Gary Speed again impressive in a more central role, Newcastle took over. But Robson was right: just one Newcastle chance arrived before Laurent Charvet scored and even then it came via a blundering run by Andreas Andersson.

That was on the half-hour and eight minutes later Keith Gillespie found Ferguson's forehead. Dean Gordon cleared, but the ball fell to Charvet who registered his first black-and-white goal with a searing 20-yard volley.

The visitors might have been expected to build on that after half-time, but Gascoigne and Townsend seized the initiative — though Gascoigne refused to seize one of the two buxom streakers. After he and Hamilton Ricard had worked space for Colin Cooper on the edge of the area, Cooper's shot looked as if it would be blocked by Aaron Hughes. Instead, the ball ballooned off the Irishman and over Steve Harper.

This was especially harsh on Harper, standing in for the injured Shay Given, because he had made important saves from Townsend and Brian Deane before Dabizas equalised, and then from Phil Stamp in the last few seconds. Dabizas had been on the pitch long enough to touch the ball once before he supplied a strong header to Charvet's deep cross to beat Schwarzer. That ensured a share of the points and Middlesbrough remain seventh. On a day of relentless activity they were the only things that did not move.

Match stats

	Boro	New
Possession	45%	55%
Attempts on target	7	5
Attempts off target	5	10
Corners	8	7
Fouls	10	8
Offsides	1	0
Bookings	1	0

Hull and high water as bottom club visit Villa

Stephen Bradfield on shocks in store in the FA Cup draw

THERE is plenty of potential for upsets in the third-round draw with several Premiership sides facing tricky ties against lower or non-league opposition.

Hull City may be separated by 90 clubs from Aston Villa, but the league's bottom side will still fancy their chances of creating a surprise against the Premiership leaders at Villa Park. The holders Arsenal have a testing trip to a resurgent Preston. The Gunners have a history of struggling against lower league opposition in the early rounds, as Wrexham and York City can testify. Chelsea, joint favourites with Arsenal at 6-1, are away to either Oldham or Brentford.

A lucrative home tie against Leeds United awaits the winners of the all-Conference replay between Doncaster Rovers and Rushden and Diamonds, whose managers have strong personal incentives for reaching the third round.

Rovers' Ian Snodin was once captain of Leeds and said: "I would cut off my right arm to reach the next round. It's an absolutely fantastic draw."

Brian Talbot of Rushden was a team-mate of the Leeds manager David O'Leary in the Arsenal team that lifted the Cup in 1979. Tottenham, already through to the Worthington Cup semi-finals, play Graham Taylor's Watford at White Hart Lane, while Derby travel to either Wycombe or Plymouth.

There will be some anxiety at Anfield at the prospect of a visit to Port Vale as Liverpool's Jamie Redknapp confirmed.

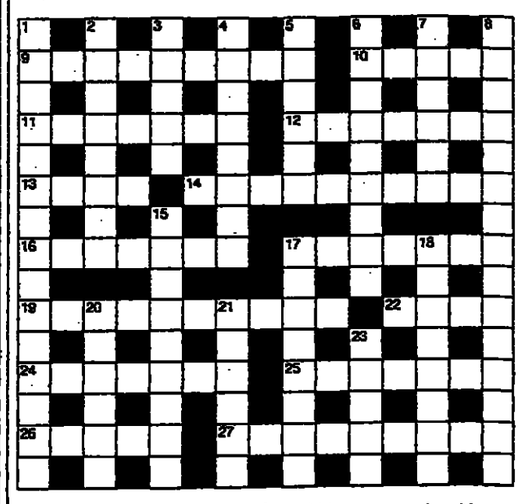
There will be an old boys reunion at Old Trafford when Bryan Robson, who as Manchester United captain lifted the FA Cup twice in the Eighties, takes Middlesbrough there next month. Another former United player Gary Pallister, who returned to Middlesbrough in the summer, had a premonition that Boro's ball would follow that of his former club out of the drum.

Blackburn's new manager Brian Kidd will have no fears about his first solo flight in the the Cup. Rovers were paired at Ewood Park with Charlton, the side they beat on Saturday in Kidd's first game in charge since moving from Manchester United. Southampton will hope lightning does not strike twice when they host Fulham. The side managed by the former Saints favourite Kevin Keegan won 1-0 at The Dell in the Worthington Cup in September to complete a 2-1 victory on aggregate.

Southport, the Guardian's Cup team of the moment, did not get the plum tie they had hoped for, but at least their fellow Conference dwellers Kingstonian or Leyton Orient of the Third Division, who drew 0-0 yesterday, offer a real prospect of further progress.

Guardian Crossword No 21,451

Set by Rufus



Across

9 Canned — as sardines are (4-5)
10 Crown jewels (5)
11 She may be thanked for safe delivery (7)
12 Get lean in order to be graceful (7)
13 Artist in outlying Middle Eastern country (4)
14 Prosaic pedantries exchanged (10)
16 Talk to William about the fuel account (3,4)
17 Didn't pursue video nasty seen in commercial (7)
19 Mandarin's coat? (6,4)
22 It's just not raining (4)
24 Is likely to fall for accountants? (7)
25 Woman will get the bill for coat (7)
26 Maxim a man turns to (5)
27 Such duties come with one's position in society (2,7)

Down

1 Investment for patron of the pools (8,7)
2 Best clothes in tatters after having left to wander around (4,4)
3 Animal in spasm is dangerous (5)
4 A bloomer — a miserable clanger! (8)
5 Stick unusually hard with twice initial efficacy (6)
6 Army command that has to be rigidly obeyed (9)
7 African state: one under matriarchal rule (6)
8 He decides who will take part (7,8)
15 Twice divulge information in a club, say (9)
17 A particular form of dislike (8)
18 Stalemate in new dock deal (8)
20 Unusual statue, showing ingenuity (6)
21 Moving spirit behind drug sales? (6)
23 Green meadow on forestry boundaries (5)

WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,444

This week's winners of a Collins English Millennium Dictionary are Mrs. W. J. Farrell of Carshalton, Surrey, Rodney Tillotson of Wantage, Oxfordshire, Betty Woodham of Spalding, Lincolnshire, J. D. Blundell of Thame, Oxfordshire, and Simon Booth of Lancaster.

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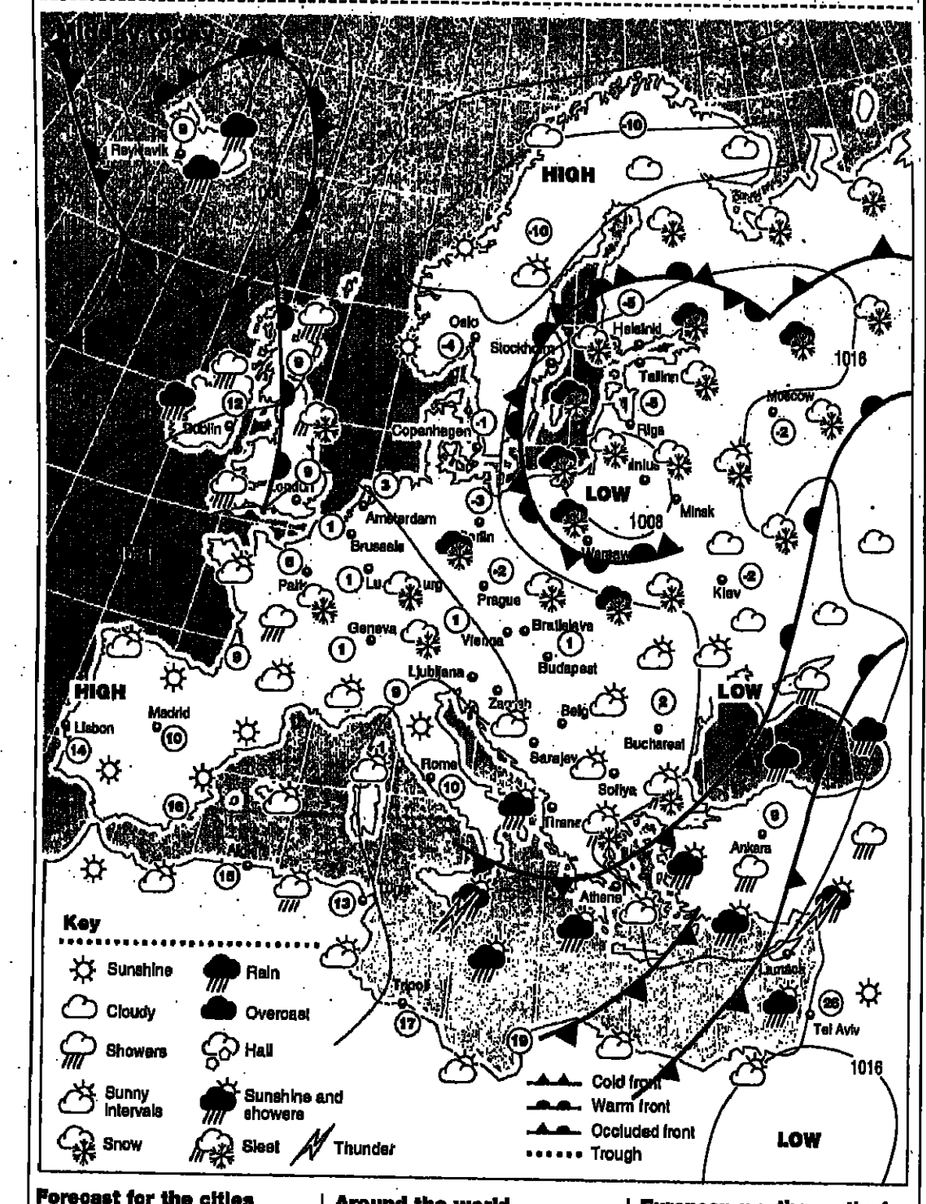
Third round draw

Sheffield Wednesday v. Norwich
Manchester United v. Middlesbrough
Sheffield United v. Notts County or Wigan
Southampton v. Fulham
Tranmere v. Ipswich
Swindon v. Barnsley
Blackburn v. Charlton
Nottingham Forest v. Portsmouth
Bournemouth v. West Bromwich Albion
Wycombe or Plymouth v. Derby
Leicester v. Birmingham
Queens Park Rangers v. Huddersfield
Oldham or Brentford v. Watford
Doncaster or Rushden & Diamonds v. Leeds
Chelsea or Brentford or Oldham v. Chelsea
Southport v. Kingstonian or Leyton Orient
Port Vale v. Liverpool
Wrexham v. Darlington or Manchester City
Newcastle v. Crystal Palace
Sheffield v. Grimsby
Bristol City v. Everton
Crewe v. Oxford United
Aston Villa v. Hull City
Preston v. Arsenal
Coventry v. Manchester
Rochdale or Rotherham v. Exeter or Bristol Rovers
West Ham v. Swansea
Blackburn v. Scunthorpe
Aston Villa v. Hull City
Bury v. Stockport
Leeds City v. Sunderland
Cardiff v. Wrexham

Ties to be played on the weekend of January 2

Television and radio
The weather in Europe

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	16	3	F
Amsterdam	4	0	Sl
Athens	18	8	F
Berlin	-3	-3	Sn
Bonn	1	-2	Sn
Brussels	2	1	Sl
Copenhagen	-1	-6	Sn
Crete	17	12	F
Geneva	-2	-6	Sl
Larnaca	22	13	Sh
London	9	6	Sh
Madrid	10	-1	F
Milan	7	-5	S
Nice	10	3	F
Oslo	-4	-11	S
Paris	6	3	Sh
Rome	19	-3	S
Stockholm	-1	-6	Sn
Tunis	13	8	C
Vienna	1	-2	Sn

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	17	7	F
Amsterdam	5	3	R
Athens	17	4	H
Berlin	-2	-5	Sn
Bonn	3	1	Sl
Brussels	5	4	R
Copenhagen	-1	-6	F
Crete	17	10	Sh
Geneva	4	1	Dr
Larnaca	21	11	Th
London	11	6	R
Madrid	10	2	S
Milan	7	-1	S
Nice	12	6	F
Oslo	-3	-11	S
Paris	7	6	R
Rome	12	1	S
Stockholm	-4	-9	Sn
Tunis	16	8	F
Vienna	6	-3	F

Wednesday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	20	9	S
Amsterdam	7	5	Sh
Athens	12	8	S
Berlin	-2	-4	Sn
Bonn	5	4	R
Brussels	9	8	H
Copenhagen	2	-1	S
Crete	15	11	S
Geneva	7	3	Sh
Larnaca	19	7	F
London	10	9	Sh
Madrid	12	3	F
Milan	8	-1	F
Nice	14	7	F
Oslo	-6	-10	S
Paris	8	8	R
Rome	14	4	F
Stockholm	-3	-9	Sn
Tunis	19	8	F
Vienna	-2	-3	Sn

Thursday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	19	4	S
Amsterdam	11	6	R
Athens	16	10	S
Berlin	1	0	R
Bonn	11	6	Sh
Brussels	11	6	Sh
Copenhagen	2	-1	Sn
Crete	18	13	S
Geneva	10	4	Sh
Larnaca	17	7	F
London	12	8	Th
Madrid	13	4	F
Milan	9	2	F
Nice	16	8	S
Oslo	-4	-7	Sn
Paris	14	10	R
Rome	16	6	F
Stockholm	-3	-7	Sn
Tunis	18	9	F
Vienna	1	-1	Sh

C: cloudy; Dr: drizzle; F: fair; Fg: fog; H: hail; R: rain; Sl: sleet; Sn: snow; S: sunny; Th: thunder. * (previous day.)

Around the world

Yesterday's lunchtime reports

		max	min
Alaccio	C	10	60
Algiers	C	15	59
Alicante	S	16	59
Amsterdam	F	4	39
Athens	S	18	64
Auckland	F	20	68
B Aires	S	21	70
Bahrain	S	25	77
Bangkok	C	32	90
Barcelona	F	9	48
Beijing	Sn	-4	25
Belgrade	S	3	37
Berlin	Sn	-1	30
Bermuda	C	24	75
Biarritz	F	10	50
Bombay	S	32	90
Bordeaux	C	9	48
Boston	S	9	48
Brussels	S	2	36
Budapest	C	-1	30
Cairo	F	29	84
Calcutta	S	25	79
Cape Town	C	22	72
Casablanca	S	17	63
Chicago	C	18	61
Copenhagen	Sn	-2	28
Corfu	S	15	59
Dallas	C	24	75
Dhaka	S	26	82
Dublin	C	5	41
Faro	S	15	59
Florence	S	5	41
Frankfurt	Sn	2	36
Funchal	F	19	66
Geneva	F	3	37
Gibraltar	S	16	61
Helsinki	Sn	-4	25
Hong Kong	C	20	68
Innsbruck	F	-1	30
Istanbul	F	18	61
Jo'burg	F	15	64
K. Lumpur	C	30	86
Kingston	F	31	88
Larnaca	F	24	75
Lima	C	20	68
Lisbon	S	8	46
London	S	3	37
Los Angeles	S	16	61
Luxembourg	C	0	32
Madrid	S	8	46
Majorca	C	13	55
Malaga	S	14	57
Malta	C	16	59
Melbourne	F	20	68
Mexico City	S	22	72
Miami	C	26	79
Milan	F	10	50
Montreal	C	1	34
Moscow	C	-3	27
Munich	C	-2	28
Nairobi	F	24	75
Naples	F	12	54
New Delhi	S	27	81
New Orleans	F	27	81
New York	R	11	52
Nice	S	14	57
Oporto	S	13	55
Oslo	S	-7	19
Paris	S	3	37
Perth	C	22	72
Prague	Sn	-2	28
Reykjavik	Dr	6	46
Rhodes	R	19	66
Rio de Jan.	C	30	86
Rome	C	9	48
Sarajevo	M	0	32
Singapore	F	31	88
Stockholm	Sn	-3	27
Strasbourg	F	2	36
Sydney	C	22	72
Tel Aviv	S	27	81
Tenerife	S	21	70
Tokyo	S	13	55
Toronto	C	-4	39
Tunis	F	18	59
Vancouver	R	4	39
Venice	M	2	36
Vienna	F	1	34
Warsaw	F	-2	28
Washington	C	21	70
Wellington	C	19	66
Zurich	F	0	32

European weather outlook

Scandinavia

Extremely cold in the north with temperatures of -20C, which is the maximum, but it will be dry. Less cold further south but still sub-zero, with snow spreading northwards. Temperatures will typically lie between -5C in Helsinki and -1C in Copenhagen and Stockholm.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland

Mostly cloudy with some light snow flurries, and heavier snowfalls for a time over and around the Alps. The Low countries and northern Germany will become brighter but scattered sleet or snow showers will remain. Highs ranging between 0 and 3C.

France

Some sleet or snow flurries are likely in the east and north, with heavier snowfalls for a time in the Alps. Central and northern areas will have spots of rain but the west and south should stay dry and bright. Highs between 1C in the north-east and 10C in the south.

Spain and Portugal

Dry with plenty of sunshine but the interior will start cold with a touch of frost locally. It will stay rather chilly in the north with highs between 10 and 12C but sunshine will raise temperatures to 16C on the southern Costas.

Italy

Changeable in the south with scattered showers, some heavy, and the risk of thunder. The north will be dry with some sunshine after mist or fog patches have cleared but it will start cold and stay rather chilly. Highs ranging from 7C in the north to 13C in the south.

Greece

Some sunshine, but there will be showers scattered around with occasional heavy downpours and the risk of thunderstorms. The north will become drier later but will turn much colder. Highs between 12 and 15C.

Television and radio

BBC 1

7.00am Business Breakfast. 9.00 BBC Breakfast News. 10.00 Kilroy. 10.40 Style Challenge. 11.05 City Hospital. 11.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 12.00 Good Living with Jane Asher. 12.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 12.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 1.00 Pass the Buck. 1.30 Going for a Song. 1.55 The Weather Show. 2.00 News. 2.55 Regional News and Weather. 3.40 Neighbours. 3.55 Inmates. 4.55 Battersea Dogs' Home. 4.25 Children's BBC: Playdays. 4.45 Entertainment Lands: The Magic of the Faraway Tree. 4.55 Little Monsters. 5.00 The Animal Magic Show. 5.10 Alvin and the Chipmunks. 5.40 Goosebumps. 6.00 Newsround. 6.10 Blue Peter. 6.35 Neighbours. 7.00 News. 7.30 Regional News Magazine. 8.00 This Is Your Life. 8.30 Hare and Now. 9.00 EastEnders. 9.30 Birds of a Feather. 10.00 News. 10.30 Men Behaving Badly. 11.00 Panorama. 11.40 They Think It's All Over. 12.10 On Site. 12.55 Chicago Hope. 1.40 Weird Science. 2.00 Fib Me How to Make a Monster. 2.30 Weather. 2.35 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.30am Cinema for the Ears. 8.00 Children's BBC: Wiggly Park. 8.05 Teletubbies. 8.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt. 8.55 Blue Peter. 9.20 Robinson Scorce. 9.45 Penny Crayon. 9.55 Tales of the Tooth Fairies. 10.00 Wiggly Park. 10.05 The Phil Silvers Show. 10.30 Great Romances of the 20th Century. 11.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies. 11.25 Fib Me Shapesong. 11.30 Wildlife on Two. 1.30 Working Lunch. 2.00 Children's BBC: Penny Crayon. 2.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour. 2.50 Match of the Day Greats. 3.40 News; Regional News and Weather. 3.45 On Cue with Steve Davis. 4.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 4.30 Gardeners' World. 5.00 Change That. 5.25 Ready, Steady, Cook. 5.50 Lovel. 6.30 Today's the Day. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.30 Space 1999. 8.15 Hi, Miss or Maybe. 8.30 Sound Stories. 9.00 The Beautiful Cobbs to Rosie. 9.30 Food and Drink. 10.00 The Cops. 10.30 Urgent Action. 10.55 Artists 13. 11.00 Big Train. 11.30 Newsnight. 12.15 On Air: The Truth About TV. 12.45 Weather. 1.00 Dispatch Box. 1.30 Learning Zone. 6.30 Close.

BBC Prime

⊕ Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Bodger and Badger. 7.45 Blue Peter. 8.10 Sloggers. 8.35 Hot Chefs. 8.45 Ready, Steady, Cook. 9.10 Style Challenge. 9.40 Change That. 10.05 Kilroy. 10.45 Classic EastEnders. 11.10 Songs of Praise. 11.50 Hot Chefs. 12.00 Fat Men in France. 12.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 1.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 1.25 Change That. 1.50 World Weather. 2.00 Wildlife. 2.30 Classic EastEnders. 3.00 Kilroy. 3.40 Style Challenge. 4.05 World Weather. 4.10 Hot Chefs. 4.35 Jellystone Gold. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.00 Sloggers. 5.30 Wildlife. 6.00 World News. 6.25 World Weather. 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 7.00 Classic EastEnders. 7.30 Gay Bodies. 8.00 Citizen Smith. 8.30 The Goodies. 9.00 The History Man. 10.00 World News and Business Report. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 The Antiques Show. 11.00 Top of the Pops 2. 11.45 The O Zone. 12.00 Shadow of the Noose. 12.50 World Weather. 1.00 Learning Zone.

BBC World

⊕ Eutelsat

7.00am World News and Weather. 7.25 Nobel Moments. 7.30 World Living: Earth Report. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 10.00 World News and Weather. 10.25 Nobel Moments. 10.30 Hardtalk. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.30 World Living: Top Gear. 11.55 World City Guides. 12.00 The World Today. 12.25 World City Guides. 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 2.00 World News. 2.25 World Business Report and Weather. 2.30 The World Today. 3.30 World Living: Future Fantastic. 3.55 World City Guides. 4.00 World News and Weather. 4.25 Nobel Moments. 4.30 Hard Talk. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.30 World Focus: QED. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: Earth Report. 6.55 World City Guides. 7.00 The World Today. 7.25 Nobel Moments. 7.30 Hard Talk. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 World Focus: QED. 8.55 World City Guides. 9.00 World News. 10.10 World Business Report and Weather. 10.30 World Living: Holiday. 11.00 World News. 11.10 Europe Direct. 11.55 World City Guides.

BBC World News and Weather. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.30 Asia Today. 12.45 World City Guides. 1.00 World News and Weather. 1.50 World Living: Earth Report. 2.00 News and Weather. 2.30 Asia Today. 2.45 World Business Report. 3.00 World City Guides. 3.00 News and Weather. 3.30 USA Direct. 4.00 News and Weather. 4.30 Asia Today. 4.45 World Business Report. 5.00 News and Weather. 5.30 USA Direct. 6.00 News and Weather. 6.30 World Focus: QED. 6.55 World City Guides.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am Today. 10.00 Start the Week. 10.45 (FM) Serial: Charles Dickens – Journalist. 10.45 (LW) Daily Service. 11.00 Woman's Hour. 12.00 Snapshots from the New South Africa. 12.30 Nemesis. 1.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.05 News. 1.04 You and Yours. 2.00 The World at One. 2.30 Round Britain Quiz. 3.00 The Archers. 3.15 Afternoon Play: Life's Little Ironies. 4.00 Money Box Live: 0171 580 4444. 4.30 The Lost Art of Correslessence. 4.45 Angel Fish. 5.00 The Food Programme. 5.30 Turning World. 6.00 PM. 6.45 Shipping Forecast. 7.00 News. 7.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. 8.00 The Archers. 8.15 Front Row. 8.45 Soft Waters. 9.00 Managing Life. 9.30 Analysis. 10.00 Nature. A Drop of Life. 10.30 Start the Week. 11.00 The World Tonight. 11.45 Book at Bedtime: Spiderweb. 12.00 Radio 4 Appeal. 12.05 Late Night on Netherland. 12.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. 12.30 (FM) Astrid Veve. 1.00 News. 1.30 Late Book: Human Voices. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 5.20 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 6.45 Prayer. 5.47 Farming Today.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

8.00am News. 8.15 Off the Shelf: PlayBack. 8.50 The Vintage Chart Show. 9.00 News. 9.10 Pause for Thought. 9.15 Movie Call. 10.00 News. (648 only) News in German. 10.06 World Business Report. 10.15 Record News. 10.30 Westway Access. 10.45 Sports Round-Up. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Omnibus. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Jazzmatazz. 1.00 News. 1.06 World Business Report. 1.15 Britain Today. 1.30 Seven Days. 1.45 Sports Round-Up. 2.00 Newshour. 5.00 News. 5.06 Outlook. 5.30 Planet 2000. 6.00 World News; (648 only) News in German. 6.06 Sports Roundup. 6.30 Westway Access. 6.50 Electronic Jukebox. 8.00 News. 8.15 Seven Days. 8.30 Insight; (648 only) News in German. 8.45 Britain Today. 9.00 Europe Today. 9.30 World Business Report. 9.45 Sports Roundup. 7.00 Newsdesk. 7.30 Brain of Britain 1998; (648 only) News in German. 8.00 News Summary. 8.01 Outlook. 8.30 Pause for Thought. 8.35 Mastiffmatic Hit List. 9.00 Newshour. 10.00 News. 10.06 World Business Report. 10.15 Britain Today. 10.30 Tying the Knot. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Insight. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 News. 12.06 Outlook. 12.30 Mastiffmatic Hit List. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Seven Days. 2.45 Wood, Oats and Bees. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 On Screen. 4.00 News. 4.06 World Business Report. 4.15 Sports Round-Up. 4.30 The Idea of the City. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 The World Today.

Sky Premier

⊕ Astra

7.00 A Christmas Carol. 9.00 Magic in the Water. 11.00 Napoleon and Samantha. 1.00 A Christmas Carol. 3.45 Magic in the Water. 4.00 Barry Norman's Film Night. 5.00 The Flintstones. 6.00 Army. 8.00 The Odyssey. 11.00 Liar, Liar. 1.00 The Deliverance of Elaine. 2.50 The Abyss. 4.50 Mute Witness.

Sky MovieMax

⊕ Astra

7.00 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues Down the Amazon. 8.50 Bary Me a River. 10.30 A Holiday for Love. 12.00 Trail of Tears. 2.00 Chiens Paradise. 4.00 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues Down the Amazon. 6.00 Bary Me in Negara. 8.00 A Holiday for Love. 10.00 God in the Streets. 12.00 Turbulence. 1.40 Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in. 3.10 Escape to Nowhere. 4.45 Down, Out and Dangerous.

Sky Cinema

⊕ Astra

6.00 The Blue Dahlia. 7.00 The Notorious Landlady. 9.00 Joshua Then and Now. 11.00 The Big Clock. 12.40 The Kremlin Letter. 2.45 Father Brown. 4.25 The Long Hot Summer.

Sky Sports

⊕ Astra

8.00 Football Special. 8.30 Racing News. 10.00 Aerobics. 10.30 Wild Spirits. 11.00 Scottish Football Special. 12.00 Football: FA Cup Special. 1.00 Aerobics. 1.30 What a Weekend. 2.00 Football Special. 3.00 Football: Spanish Primera Liga. 5.00 Futbol Mundial. 6.00 V-Max. 6.30 Pool: World Masters. 7.00 Sports Centre. 7.30 What a Weekend. 8.00 Football: Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest – Live. 11.15 Sports Centre. 11.30 Football League Review. 12.30 V-Max. 1.00 Sports Centre. 1.15 Football: Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest. 3.15 Football League Review. 4.15 Sports Centre. 4.30 Close.

Sky Sports 2

⊕ Astra

1.00 NFL American Football: New York v Seattle. 4.00 Ice Hockey: Benson & Hedges Cup Final. 6.30 Athletics: Sebah Climbathon. 7.30 World Windsurfing. 8.00 Tennis: Davis Cup. 11.00 Sporting Heroes. 12.00 Golden Age of Motor Racing. 12.30 Close.

Eurosport

⊕ Astra/Eutelsat

8.30 Bobsleigh: World Cup. 9.30 Alpine Skiing: Women's World Cup Super-G. 10.30 Alpine Skiing: Men's World Cup Downhill. 11.30 Skeleton: World Cup. 12.30 Ski-Jumping: World Cup. 2.00 Alpine Skiing: World Cup. 3.00 Fishing: 1997 Marlin World Cup. 5.00 Ski-Jumping: World Cup. 6.30 Ten-Pin Bowling: PBA National Championship. 8.00 Extreme Sports: Youth Only Zone. 9.00 Karting: Elf Masters. 10.00 Sumo: Grand Tournament. 11.00 Football: Eurogoals. 12.00 Boxing: International Middleweight Contest. 1.00 Close.

Sky 1

⊕ Astra

8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 The Ohio Evans Breakfast Show. 9.00 Hollywood Squares. 10.00 Sarah – Surviving Life. 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 12.00 Oprah Winfrey Show. 1.00 Jenny Jones. 1.55 The Special K Collection. 2.00 Days of Our Lives. 2.55 The Special K Collection. 3.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 3.55 The Special K Collection. 4.00 Jenny Jones. 4.55 The Special K Collection. 5.00 Sarah – Surviving Life. 5.55 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 Married... With Children. 7.30 Friends. 8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 Real TV. 9.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 10.00 Sliders. 11.00 South Park. 11.30 Seinfeld. 12.00 Friends. 12.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 1.30 Renegade. 2.30 Long Play.

National Geographic

⊕ Astra

8.00 Eternal Enemies: Lions and Hyenas. 9.00 Windborne: A Journey into Flight. 10.00 The Rolling Road. 11.00 The Snakes. 12.00 Beyond the Clouds: The Value of Life. 1.00 They Never Set Foot on the Moon. 2.00 Close.

UK Gold

⊕ Astra

5.00 Crossroads. 5.30 Neighbours. 5.55 EastEnders. 6.30 The Bill. 7.00 The Bill. 7.30 The Darling of Buenos Aires. 8.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot. 11.30 Angels. 12.00 Dallas. 12.55 Neighbours. 1.25 EastEnders. 2.00 Juliet Bravo. 3.00 Dallas. 3.55 The Bill. 4.25 The Bill. 4.55 EastEnders. 5.30 Angels. 6.00 All Creatures Great and Small. 7.00 Due South. 8.00 May to December. 8.40 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum. 9.30 Dad's Army. 10.00 Fist of Fun. 10.35 More Specially Selected Canned Carrott. 12.35 Sports Anorak of the Year. 12.55 The Bill. 1.25 The Bill. 1.55 Spender. 2.55 The Paul Bayard. 3.55 Shopping with Screenshop.

Discovery

⊕ Astra/Intelsat

8.00 Fishing World. 8.30 Walker's World. 9.00 Flight Deck. 9.30 Jurassica. 7.00 Animal Doctor. 7.30 Dragons of Komodo. 8.30 Beyond 2000. 9.00 Wilder Discovery: Kenya's Killers. 10.00 Raging Planet. 11.00 Empire of the East. 12.00 Wings. 1.00 Nightfighters. 2.00 Flight Deck. 2.30 Ancient Warriors. 3.00 Close.

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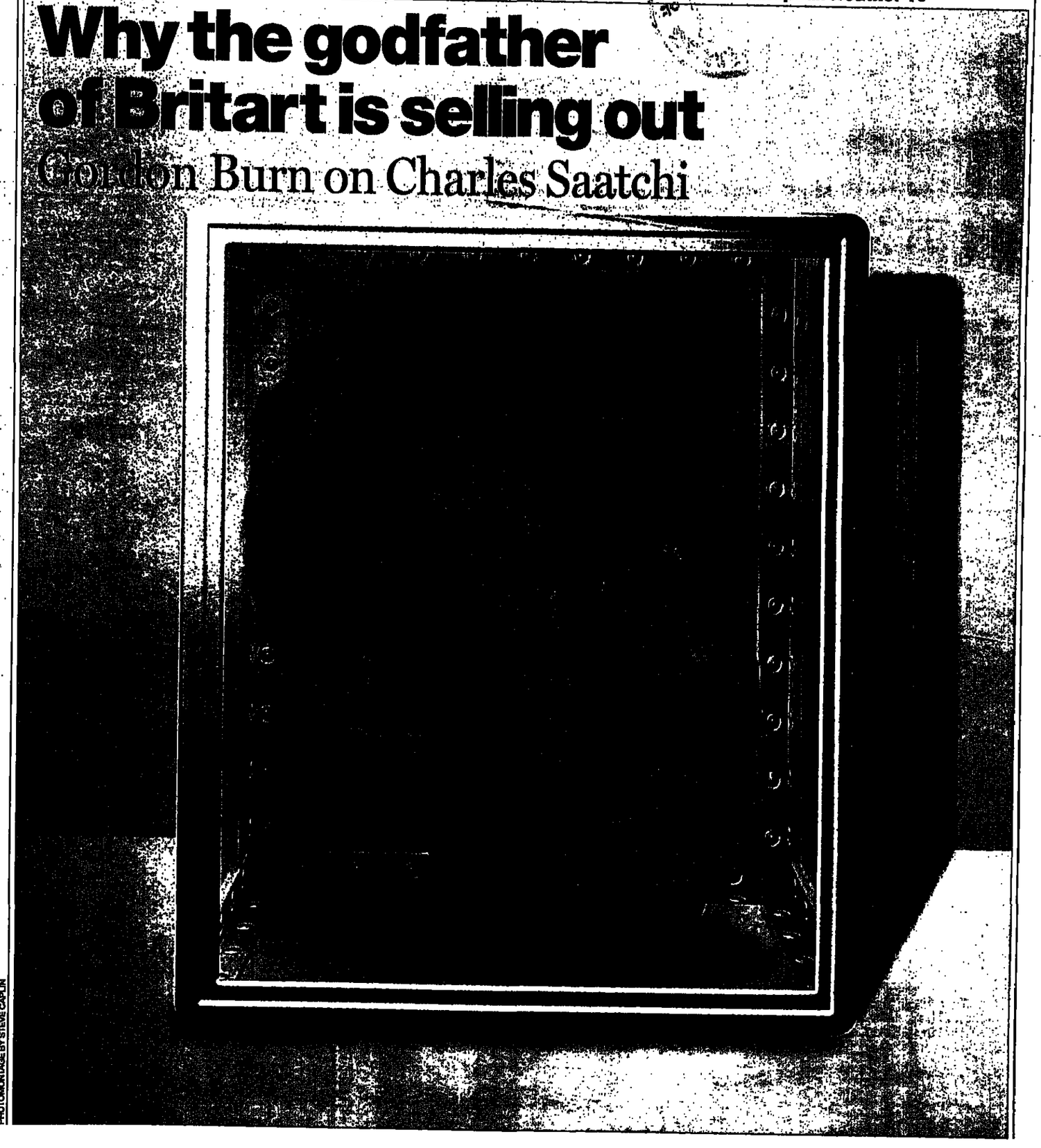
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Why the godfather of Britart is selling out

Gordon Burn on Charles Saatchi



PHOTOMONTAGE BY STEVE CAPLIN

Charles Saatchi sells part of his art collection at Christies tomorrow. Why? Time to throw out the new to make way for the newer, writes **Gordon Burn**

I want it, I want it all, and I want it now

Charles Saatchi went shopping on Friday. Late in the afternoon he blew into a handful of galleries in and around London's West End. Earlier, he had been further off the beaten track in his preferred territory of Shoreditch and Hoxton, out East where the new lofts and warehouse spaces are, where bargains are still to be had and artists are thick on the ground.

Saatchi's nose for the coming young art star, the next new thing, is legendary by now. He has an unrivalled track record. For a decade his purchasing decisions have influenced collectors of vanguard art all over Europe and America. Being taken up by Saatchi has become one of the conditions of success for any young artist. He has shown repeatedly that he has "the eye". But he still needs confidants and inside-trackers and guides, what some people in London refer to as his "sniffer dogs", if he wants to be first, and he has always wanted that. Losers make their own arrangements.

Saatchi was accompanied on Friday by Waldemar Januszczak, the art critic of the Sunday Times, and the artist and writer, Martin Maloney. Maloney has been Saatchi's regular companion on his shopping expeditions in the last 12 months. In the year, that is to say, since the Sensation exhibition opened at the Royal Academy. Subtitled "Young British Artists From the Saatchi Collection", Sensation was testimony not only to Saatchi's collecting acumen but also to the fact that the best art of the 1990s hadn't been made in New York or Cologne or Los Angeles, but in London.

It included landmark pieces by Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread, Sarah Lucas and Marcus Harvey (who painted Myra, the notorious billboard-size portrait of the child-murderer), as well as significant work by Marc Quinn, Gary Hume, Chris Ofili, Richard Billingham and a dozen others.

A lot of it couldn't have been made without Charles Saatchi's financial backing and firm commitment, and possibly wouldn't have been made without the groundbreaking shows by the likes of Donald Judd, Robert Gober, Jeff Koons and Bruce Nauman that he started putting on at the Saatchi Gallery from 1985 onwards. Saatchi reportedly paid £25,000 to have Hirst's shark caught, air-freighted from Australia and installed in north London (its current value is probably around £1 million). After its exhibition at the Chisenhale Gallery, Whiteread's Ghost went into storage and was damaged. When Saatchi bought it a couple of months later, he paid for major repairs. He spent more money salvaging and crating it than it cost him to buy. (Acquired for less than £20,000 in 1990, its current value is estimated at around £250,000).

Sensation was a triumph. It was a scandal and a blockbuster. It earned Saatchi many thousands of column-inches and the kind of "brand-stretching" — putting your name further about — that money can't buy.

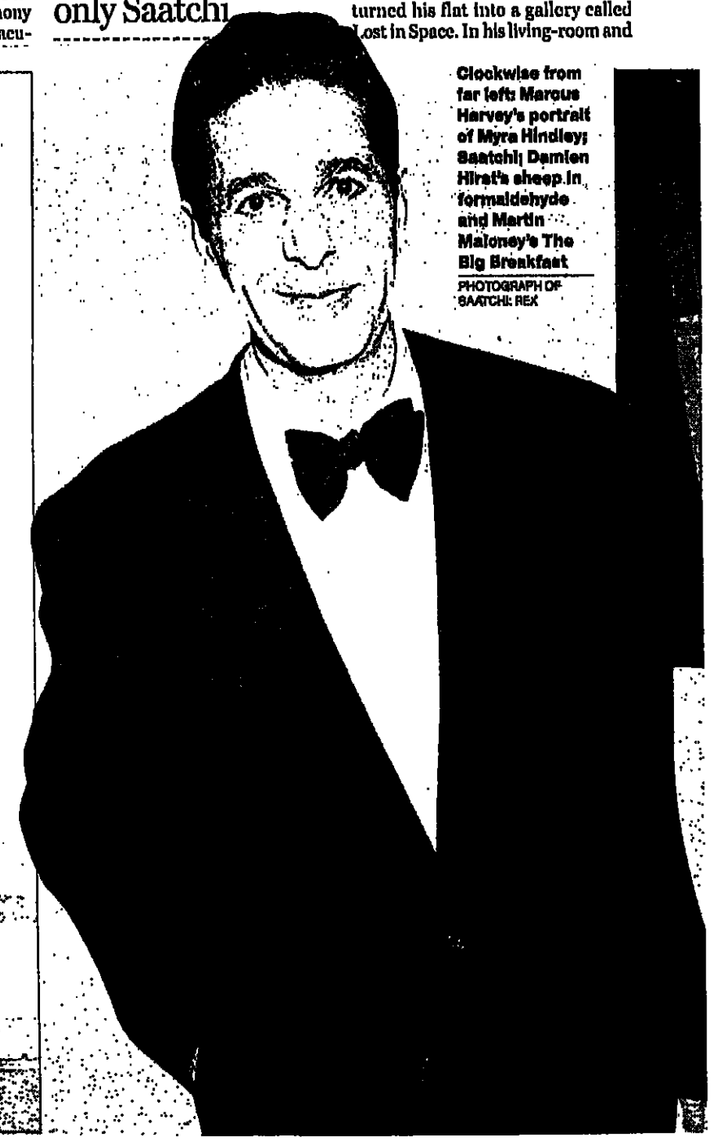
During the installation of the show, Saatchi was apparently very hands-on, padding around the galleries at the Royal Academy in a pair of antique Chinese slippers, obsessing over the details of traffic-flow and lighting, the first there in the mornings and the last to leave at night. But by the time the doors opened to the public, he was off. He'd gone shopping again.

One of the essays in the catalogue to the Sensation exhibition was written by Martin Maloney, who also had some of his own bright, blustery paintings in the show. In it he gave an overview of the developments that had resulted in what was coming to regarded as one of the most talented group of artists to emerge in Britain since the second world war. He was well-placed to do this: like Damien Hirst, Abigail Lane and many of the others, Maloney had been a student at Goldsmiths' College in London. He had left, aged 32, in 1993.

> People perceive a collecting culture in Britain, but it's not there. There's only Saatchi

After Goldsmiths', Maloney turned his flat into a gallery called Lost in Space. In his living-room and





Clockwise from far left: Marcus Harvey's portrait of Myra Hindley; Saatchi; Damien Hirst's sheep in formaldehyde and Martin Maloney's The Big Breakfast

PHOTOGRAPH OF SAATCHI: REX

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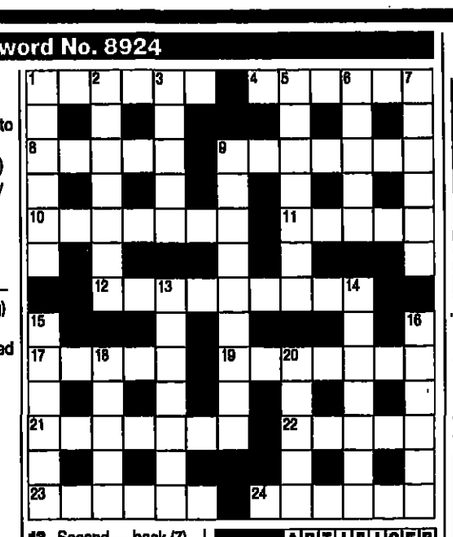
Quick Crossword No. 8924

Across

1 Shrivel up (6)
4 Stop and speak to (6)
8 Characteristic (5)
9 Welling Irish fairy (7)
10 Passionate (7)
11 Lesser white heron (5)
12 Dwelling place — dire scene (anag) (9)
17 Small one-masted vessel (5)
19 Suggested (7)
21 Fatty (7)
22 Performer (5)
23 Hatred (6)
24 Frank (6)

Down

1 Inside (6)
2 Farm vehicle (7)
3 Consumed (5)
5 Case of cutlery — mess (7)
6 Alternative (5)
7 Contract between states (6)
9 Queue for free food (9)
13 Second — back (7)
14 Thrown out by legal process (7)
15 Streets of houses (6)
16 Worshipped (6)
18 Drug made from poppies (5)
20 Shopping complex (5)



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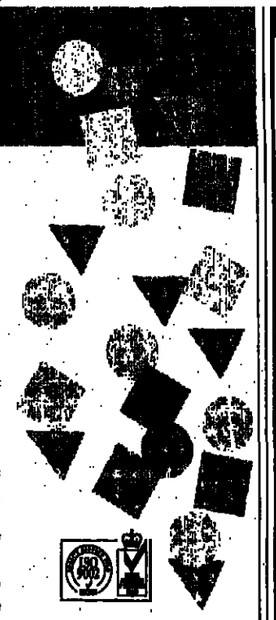
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his bathroom and his kitchen, he put on a series of shows of what he called Wannabe art — art that signalled a return to the hand-made and the unironically beautiful and whose kitsch, even camp, qualities were a reaction to the young BritArtists' brutal, oi-oi, in-your-faceness. This was going to be the new direction for art, Maloney told anybody who would listen.

And somebody who did was Charles Saatchi. In his Sensation essay, Maloney had appeared to praise the gilded youth of Goldsmiths' College. But he had come to bury them. The yBA's were aggressive, gloomy, doomy. Whereas the artists Maloney was gathering about him were into "softness, romanticism, a day-dreamy beauty". There was less snarling, less complaining, more smiling. Soon Charles Saatchi could be overheard telling people that Martin Maloney was a genius.

Last autumn, soon after Sensation opened, Charles Saatchi turned up at Tim Noble and Sue Webster's house in Rivington Street in Hoxton. With him was Martin Maloney. Noble and Webster had been expecting Saatchi, but they had been expecting him an hour later. They were unprepared, but not surprised: they had heard that is how he liked to work. "He likes to catch you when he thinks your guard will be down," Tim Noble says. "It's just a buzz that he gets."

Noble and Webster live and work together. They do work that goes against the grain of what has been fashionable for the last five or six years — work without attitude. Pretty flashing signs and pulsing, tinselly love-hearts that aren't ballsy or confrontational in any way. They did silly stunts to make Saatchi get his chequebook out in the past, but he never did. Sent him 12ft faxes; tins of beans. "But it scares the hell out of people," as Tim says.

Last year, they put out a conventional, professional-looking press release that the notorious Jake Chapman's girlfriend got together for them, and it worked.

Saatchi showed up at their house, where their new work was to be seen, an hour early. But he showed. There were three works: an illuminated fountain; a double self-portrait made of rubbish gathered from the gutter; a tattoo heart with a dagger through it illuminated with funfair lights. Very optimistic, very bright, very beautiful. Maybe a bit nerdy; a bit glitter, in the style that Saatchi was soon to dub the New Neurotic Realism. He bought two. They could tell he liked them. The way they could tell was through the spy-holes they had bored in the walls.

Saatchi and Maloney circled round the pieces; paced up and down, gesturing, nodding. And Noble and Webster stood on the other side of the wall, watching. They didn't approach Saatchi. Nothing was said. Martin Maloney's look made it clear that that wouldn't be appropriate. Maloney has this thing of giving people a very hard stare, according to Tim Noble. A stare that says: look, just let him get on with it. There are reports of Saatchi getting "very passionate and excited" in front of pieces that he is seeing for the first time and knows he wants. Nothing like that happened here.

> Saatchi is a neophiliac, a gorger of the briefly new, a junkie for change

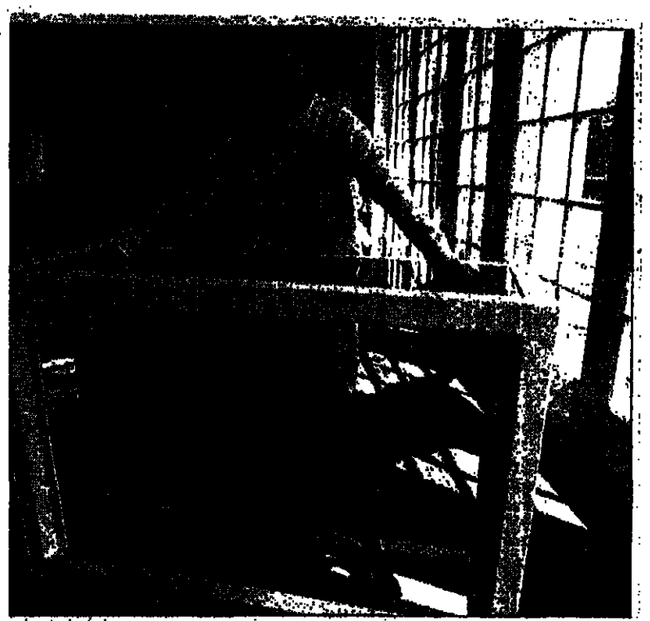
But they got the vibe, definitely, through their little spy-holes, keeping themselves amused. Saatchi left first. "Great show. Loved it." Maloney followed him. Saatchi rang up on his mobile a few seconds later, as he drove away in the taxi. There was haggling.

"The Next Move Forward". This was the slogan that Saatchi and Saatchi came up with for the Conservative Party in election year, 1987. And, like "Labour Isn't Working", the rallying-cry which is credited with bringing Margaret Thatcher to power eight years earlier, it bears the hallmarks of Charles Saatchi himself.

Like the industry that he dominated with his brother Maurice throughout the 1980s, he is addicted to the constant conquest of new markets, to dynamic obsolescence. Saatchi, in Christopher Booker's prescient phrase, is a neophiliac: a perpetual gorger of the briefly new; a junkie for shift and change and forward propulsion.

In the early seventies, when he first set up Saatchi and Saatchi with Maurice, he was in the forefront of bringing the backgammon craze to London. Now that he is in his fifties, and having been forced out of the agency that was once poised to buy Midland Bank, to reinvent himself as M and C Saatchi, he has become a go-kart fanatic.

And in the years between, he has amassed museum-class collections of conceptual art, minimal art, New Expressionist painting, "Bad" painting, Arte Povera, Neo-Geo, and the painters of the School of London, only to disperse them when the market showed itself favourable for resale, or as the mood grabbed him.





Lee Castelli described the neophyte collector, Ethel Scull, as "vulgar" when she wanted to buy three Jasper Johns paintings in the early 1960s from his gallery. But "I want it, I want it all, and I want it now" is the motto that Doris, the first Mrs Saatchi, once said should be engraved on all great collectors' hearts. Charles likes to buy in bulk and he hates to be thwarted. "He does have a temper," one London dealer says. "It can be very aggressive."

It is his fevered, scattergun approach that is the most persistent criticism of Saatchi as a collector. But experience has taught him that it can be expensive to let anything slip through the net. He passed by Tracy Emin's high-pheremone embroidered tent Everybody I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995, for instance, when it was first offered — only to have to fork out 10 times the original asking price 18 months later when he wanted to include it in Sensation.

Saatchi has always got to artists when they were young and, often, like Tim Noble and Sue Webster, unrepresented. "You're being an assessor at the Slade, in what is essentially examination conditions," the sculptor, Richard Wentworth, says, "and he'll just appear. This little figure appears in the background. He's gone shopping, and he's the first in the line... People perceive a proper collecting culture in this country, and it's not there. There's Charles Saatchi and there's no one else."

Saatchi's spectral, everywhere-and-nowhere reputation has grown to almost mythical proportions. He moves with stealth, by darkness, swoops while the rest of the city sleeps. This can present particular problems for a publicly-funded institution like the Institute of Contemporary Arts which tends to be working with younger, emerging artists at just the point when Charles Saatchi is wanting to pick them up. The Director of Exhibitions, Emma Dexter, commissioned Martin Maloney to curate the ICA's current show, Die Young Stay Pretty, a showcase for New Neurotic Realism, over a year ago.

Since then, the Saatchi Gallery has published a glossy, large-format NNR manifesto (boasting a Martin Maloney painting on the lurid wrap-around cover) and announced the exhibition Neurotic Realism: Part one (featuring Martin Maloney, among others) for January next year. Several of the artists in Die Young Stay Pretty who weren't already in Charles Saatchi's collection have been added to it in the last 12 months. "I can't help it if Charles Saatchi goes shopping in the middle," Emma Dexter says. "I don't want him to get there first."

But one inevitable result of the student bursaries that are to be funded by the sale of works from the Saatchi collection which go under the hammer at Christies tomorrow is that Charles Saatchi will be able to get to the best students, faster. In addition, successful applicants for Saatchi Young Artists' Sponsorship Bursaries "will be awarded a show at the Saatchi Gallery and will join the Saatchi Collection".

In other words, as with Damien Hirst and other stars of the collection, minimum outlay can, with a following tailwind and a touch of genius, achieve maximum results. "Charles is aware of the marketability of art," the London dealer Victoria Miro has said. "Other collectors want to hide that side of their activity."

With Neurotic Realism, Saatchi for the first time has declared himself the author of a movement and the booster of a new, "tinsel-camp" aesthetic. The sale at Christies of work by Hirst, Whitecead and hundred other artists from the collection underlines his impatience to move things on. No longer just a collector, he is also a curator now, buying into and showing people whose names are unknown even to contemporary art market specialists. Which is an exposed position. An artist who saw him with his "posse" of Januszczak and Maloney on Friday remarked that Charles "seemed like he might be feeling a bit vulnerable and needing a bit of support".

He is already rumoured to find the NNR book a misjudgment and an embarrassment; evidence that perhaps it isn't so easy to engineer change — to invent the history of British art before it has even happened. "It is one of those moments when his vulnerability is more clear than at any other time," one private dealer says. "If he is wrong, he may suffer."

1000 years days

To mark the end of the second millennium, the Guardian's website is conducting a whistle-stop tour of 1,000 years of world history. Each Monday we publish the highlights here



Day 105: 1208-1209
A new order, the Friars Minor, got the papal go-ahead in 1209. Their young leader had quixotic notions about renouncing worldly goods and a charming habit of talking to birds. His name was Francis of Assisi (pictured), and he had just founded one of the biggest religious orders in Roman Catholicism.

Day 106: 1210-1211
The spirit of the age was crusade-inspiring sublime heroism and barbarous cruelty. The Children's Crusade was led by 12-year-old shepherd Stephen of Cloyes. It was almost democracy: a motley crew of adventurers, poor and pious peasants, mystics and misfits gathered in Marseille, intent on rescuing the True Cross by sheer will and virtue.

Day 107: 1212-1213
King John finally healed the five-year-old breach with the papacy, accepting Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury, and turning over England to Pope Innocent III as his feudal lord.

Day 108: 1214-1215
The Magna Carta became enshrined in legend as the foundation of English freedom, but it was nothing of the kind. Its 60-odd clauses protected élite barons and the Church.

Day 109: 1216-1217
Beset by rebellion, King John was only defeated by his own greed — he ate too much at a Norfolk feast. Struck down by dysentery, John struggled across the Wash where the tide engulfed his royal treasure, before meeting his death at Newark during a violent storm.

Day 110: 1218-1219
In Delhi, the recently established Muslim empire was busy recycling Hindu temples as mosques. Qutab Minar, a soaring 73-metre minaret-cum-victory tower, remains to this day as a monument to the vigour of the Afghan conquerors.

Day 111: 1220-1221
Bishop Hugh of Lincoln was one of the few senior clerics to speak out fearlessly for the Jews. During savage pogroms at the end of the 12th century he physically protected Jewish families from anti-semitism. In 1220 he was canonised.

Read the full reports at www.guardian.co.uk/millennium

The Sabine Durrant Interview

Aled Jones
Broken record

He was the boy soprano with 16 gold and platinum albums. Now he's back with a new pop music career and better teeth

Photograph by Eamonn McCabe

From the age of 12 to 16, Aled Jones, the chorister from Bangor, was everybody's favourite grandson. He had the blond hair, the apple cheeks, the perfect manners and, of course, the voice: pure, soaring, throat-catching, an angel in your living room. But then there were the teeth.

"They were awful, crooked, impossible to clean. If I'd bite an apple, fillings would fall out. But I couldn't have them done because of what it might do to the voice. I couldn't have a brace. So I just looked awful. I'd never smile for pictures so they'd have to catch me off guard. They'd say you're a crap singer and I'd laugh and they'd get a shot of bent teeth. The mouth from hell."

Aled Jones was laughing as he told me this and I got a good view of his six shiny new enamel top choppers, four months old and white as snow. He tapped them helpfully. "They're not caps, they're porcelain veneers, no metal or anything. They grind the teeth down to posts and then they're glued on. If they start to discolour, I'll just get a new set whopped in."

Jones is 27 now, 11 years into his retirement, and in the throes of a whole new personal realignment. A new album, From The Heart, sees the launch of the new Aled Jones. No ruffles, no organs, no top Cs. An Aled Jones with new teeth. Aled Jones the high baritone. Aled Jones the pop star.

"This was a big decision for me," he said. "I wasn't sure if I wanted to do all this again. It's not as easy as when you're a boy or if you're Charlotte Church [the latest child soprano to storm out of Wales]. When you're 12, you're a huge fish in a very small pond, but now it's a hell of a lot different. There are a lot of people who sing and lots of people who release albums and lots of people who look a damn sight better than I do." He slapped his hands under his thighs. "What are you looking at? Are you looking at my finger-nails again? I bite the bloody lot. I can't stop. I bite them and then..." He mimed a spit from the side of his mouth. "It's awful. It's horrible. I'll stop."

We met in the house of his manager (he also has a classical agent and a press agent and TV plugger) in London. Jones, who sat in front of a copy of Music Week, was nursing a cold. Every time he coughed, he said "Excuse me" like the well brought up boy he is, and put his hand over his mouth. He was wearing a grey flannel shirt, buttoned up to the neck, shiny lace up shoes. The last time he'd had his photograph taken, his Armani jumper had bunched and made it look as if he had breasts. He is vain enough, with his thin-framed glasses and expensive clothes, to care about that: "Everyone kept ringing up and saying, have you had implants?" But nice enough to rise above it. "I'm fluey today, so sod it. I've given up."

He had a pimple or two around his mouth the morning we met and he clutched his balls once or twice as if his slacks were a little tight. Twice he said "sod it". But if he is no longer the perfect grandson, he's a close call for the perfect son-in-law. We talked for ages about house prices in Barnes, where he lives with his fiancée, a translator for Virgin Atlantic (free flights!), about the roadworks in Kew, about the 37 stitches his mother had after giving birth to him, an only child, by Caesarian ("I was big. I was like a turkey"). He likes Jazz FM and Radio 2 and listens to Classic Romance on Sunday mornings. He said, "I'm very good with a drill." When I said bitten nails were better than dirty ones, he said, "I'm really clean anyway." He smelt of mint.

The growing up of a child star can make for a fascinatingly grotesque study. Bonnie Langford, forever bunched and winsome. Macaulay Culkin, that celluloid scream presaging the worst adolescence in the world. But the ageing of a boy soprano is particularly poignant. Even at its most perfect, the talent comes with ephemerality built in.

This might be why Jones, whether appearing on Wogan or before the Pope, on Songs of Praise or Top of the Pops, whether performing publicly at Bob Geldof's wedding to Paula Yates, or privately for the Princess of Wales, has always seemed so well-adjusted. He may have had 16 gold or platinum albums, and five top 10 singles, including Walking in the Air, there may have been five documentaries made about him, he may have been worth £3 million before he was out of short trousers, but his parents made sure he still got eight O levels, and three A levels. He still had time to be "dead keen" on a girl at school.

And it is striking how, even now, he talks about his voice as something external to himself. "I didn't have to think about anything. I didn't even have to think about singing. I just did it." It was a "fluke" that a lady in the congregation persuaded a local record producer to come and hear "it". "A fluke" that the album this producer made was on sale in Cardiff and was bought by someone from the BBC. "A fluke" that the album subsequently made by the BBC sold 250,000 copies in one week. The one thing that wasn't a fluke was his decision to give it all up.

"I was 16 and I just thought if anyone asks me again has my voice broken, why hasn't it broken, have you got a girlfriend, all that stuff. I just thought sod this. I think to be honest the voice had started changing long before then but I could have carried on. I was recording an album when I stopped singing. I'd done four songs. I had a cold which had never bothered me before; I'm not one of these fussy singers, technique takes you through it. But it was my breathing. It was really annoying me... The top of my voice was fine. Before that I was top Cs, top Cs and they were like wow, the best they'd ever been. But then it came to the middle and it was really dreadful. And we stopped for lunch and I was with my mum and all the people I'd always worked with, and I said, "Do you mind if we don't go back?" and they said, 'No, we're glad you said that.'"

Jones recounted this moment quite cheerfully, though it sounded awful. It is clear that his is an optimistic soul. His career, since he embraced a belated adolescence, has been characterised mostly by change, though he talks about "biding his time" and "sorting out" his head. The first thing he did was go to Japan where Little Aled had always been big, and where "they wanted me to give the impression that I was still a boy, that I wasn't changing. I couldn't sing, so I went on tour with the Vienna Boys Choir, narrating Hansel and Gretel in Japanese." Did you learn Japanese? "I can say 'Who's eating my chocolate house?' which is very useful."

> The ageing of a boy soprano is poignant. The talent has built-in ephemerality

From Japan, he went straight to the Royal Academy of Music, "which was a mistake". He was the youngest in his year and dropped out before the end of the course, though he didn't leave before starting a college band, A2Z. "We supported the Blessed, a big leather rock band. And there I was in my Next jumper. The Guardian said I was like an insipid Michael J Fox." He did some acting, though he says he was "dreadful" and was a DJ on Radio Northampton before being accepted for drama school at Bristol Old Vic. He learned to dance and suppress his Welsh lilt. "Now it's accent schmaccent. At least if you're Scottish, Welsh? Our time will come."

When he left Bristol, he beat Adam Ant and 2,000 others to the lead role in Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat in Blackpool. The reviews were glowing, but he wasn't mad about his voice: "I was belting, you know? I would sustain every note. This great gruff sound." Or the costume. "I grow to hate it so much, these tight briefs with silk wrapped around. As tight as you can imagine." He grimaced. (That might have been when he clutched his balls.)



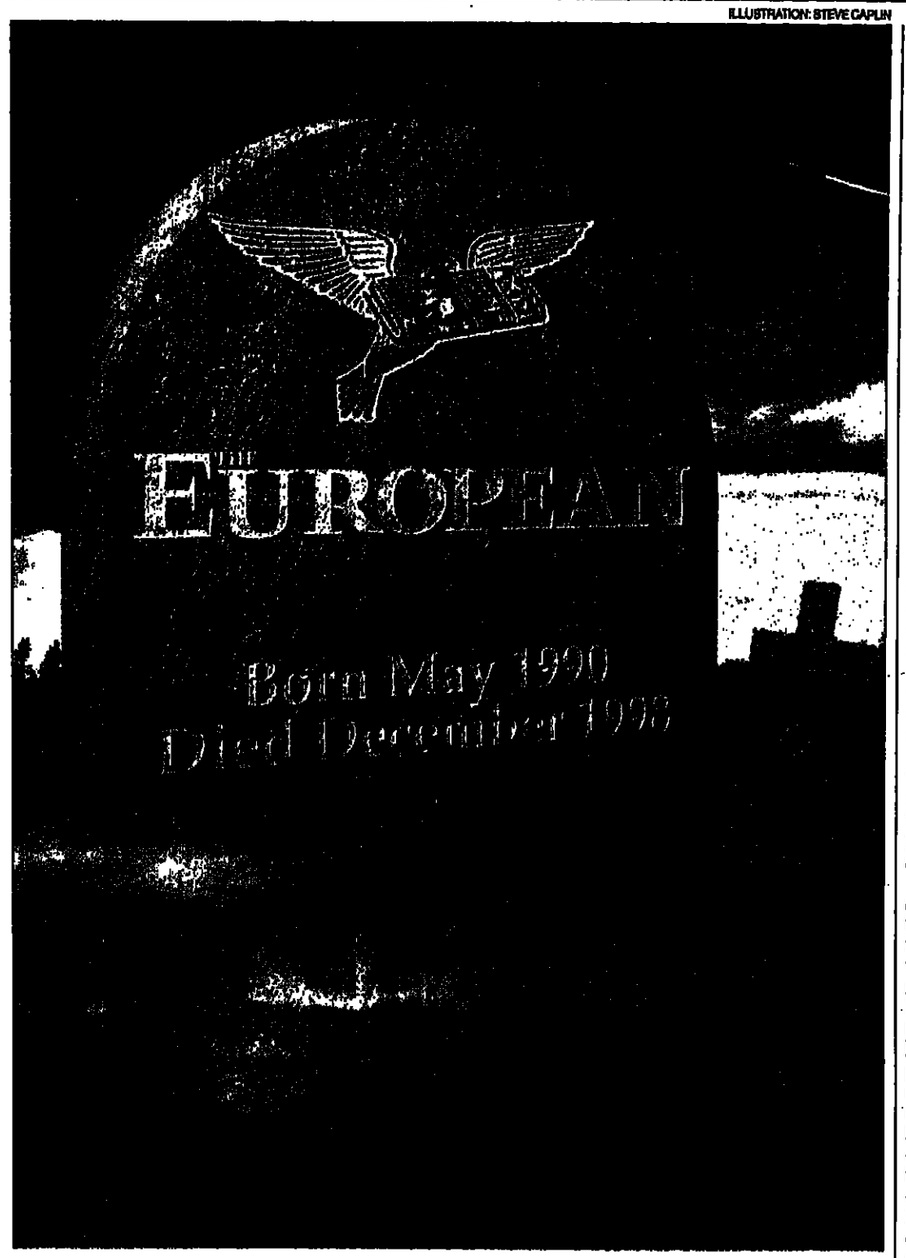
When he talks about the things he's done, post voice-break, Jones repeatedly tells you he was "terrible" or "dreadful". He likes to recount embarrassing stories, the moment he forgot the words — and the melody. Several times he referred to himself as "naff". But on the subject of the new album, on which he has worked with some top-drawer musicians, he became deadly serious, even defensive. He has worked hard on his voice and, on songs like What a Wonderful World, it is resoundingly sweet, effortless. But the pronunciation of every syllable gives away his classical training. Tom Waits it isn't.

"I don't know if it's pop or not. It's not classical. Perhaps you can help." Is it easy listening? He looked suddenly sour. "That conjures up really dodgy synthesisers and no thought going into it. And I've put so much into those songs." There was a story in the tabloids suggesting the album had been delayed so as not to face competition from Charlotte Church. It was hard to tell if there was an edge or not when he said: "It's nothing to do with little Charlotte. Bless her."

Is Aled Jones fed up with being Aled Jones? "There comes a time when you're not the youngest any more and that's quite nice," he said. But what about at Christmas when the Snowman's bound to be on the telly again and Walking In the Air, the theme tune to it, ringing out from every Tannoyed street corner? "It's a lovely song," he said diplomatically. "Thank God, I sang it in tune because I never thought it would be this big. In a shop I know instantly when it's about to play because you hear these bells and I think, right-oh, I'm off."

He looked thoughtful. "It is so much easier for people to say he's crap now, rather than he's good." He coughed, but he didn't apologise this time. "That's just something I'll have to prove to people," he said. And then he smiled, and showed his teeth.

ILLUSTRATION: STEVE CAPLIN



Sunny side up

The BBC is using soap stars to lighten its drama offerings. But that doesn't mean standards are slipping, drama head Mal Young tells **Maggie Brown**

The BBC is about to unleash its big new drama idea. In the past year it has asked itself: why not use our soap stars and soap writers in a systematic way, to rescue our dwindling reputation for popular drama? This down-to-earth approach is personified by Liverpudlian Mal Young, 50, ex-producer of Brookside, who is now in charge of all the main drama series at the BBC. When he joined a year ago, fresh from setting up Channel 5's Family Affairs nightly soap and restyling The Bill as an hour-long drama, he headed straight for what he identified as two pillars of opportunity and strength: Casualty and EastEnders.

He felt upmarket BBC executives were rather embarrassed by them and failed to capitalise on their heritage. "They almost seemed on the periphery, people seemed a bit scared of them," he says.

No more. Young slapped the script editors on long-term contracts (two years instead of three months) and started building outwards. The first three "pop dramas" premiere in January and February. If the audiences likes them, they will run and run. He has cast Michelle Collins, who played Cindy Beale in EastEnders, as the lead of Sunburn, a comedy drama about British holiday reps in Cyprus. This piece, Young cheerfully admits, has drawn inspiration from docusoaps — one earlier this year was called Holiday Reps. But then, these hour-long dramas are designed for 8pm, and are attempting to win airtime back from the pop-documentaries, while also attacking ITV.

In another departure, Young had the nous to declare there was no need to invent a new popular hospital drama — all the networks want one — when it already had Casualty, a 13-year hit phenomenon.

All that had to be done was to go through the swing doors, into the ward. Holby City, accordingly, follows key Casualty patients, the doctors and the nurses, into the main hospital. In January, when it starts, viewers will be able to watch Casualty on Saturday, then a "what happens next" Holby City during the week. A permanent set has been built at Elstree, north-west London, alongside EastEnders. Young, whose key training was at the cul-de-sac of Brookside, believes in set locations, and hopes to build up Elstree.

The third drama, Harbour Lights, is designed around ex-EastEnders star Nick Berry (with his company, Valentine) and features him as the harbour master in a coastal town. The thing that strikes you on watching clips is that it is sunny, the characters look tanned, beautiful almost, with good skin and teeth. . , and they are happy. It is Baywatch meets Dorset. Goodness knows how they managed enough sunny days to film.

Young says it's all deliberate. "Drama was getting a bit gritty, a bit dark. Probably because everyone was trying to be Jimmy McGovern, Kay Mellor or Lynda la Plante. There was a lot of parody going on.

"We decided we really just wanted to entertain a mainstream audience. Make things very accessible. We wanted people to have a brighter vision of BBC."

Not that Young's anything but a realist about the reception his new dramas may receive. The days of launching new programmes and attracting the instant attention of 15 million people are all but gone. A 30 per cent audience share is now acceptable, he says, even for ITV.

Young says: "It's the toughest thing going now, to launch a new show." He explains that people's time is committed, particularly if they keep abreast of the soaps. His new dramas are designed as self-contained episodes, in tune with people's busy lives.

Now Young is to switch priorities. He's developing a slate for all the slots after 9.30pm. With News at Ten ending next March, all the rules can be rewritten. "I've wrapped up our ability to have a hit before the watershed, now we want slightly darker, hour-long pieces."

Will they feature adult sex? "That's always a good area to look at. But BBC1 doesn't want to step over the line and alienate the mainstream audience. Topless shots and lots of four letter words doesn't make for very good drama."

He says he's had a roller-coaster ride in the past year. "Morale was a little low here and there was lots of stuff in the papers about demoralised BBC drama. I keep saying: let's stop looking back." He says the BBC's drama department never really recovered its bounce after the failure of Eldorado.

Young is one of the first heads of BBC drama in recent years to have the ear of the controller of BBC1, Peter Salmon. If he produces hits he'll be hugely powerful. "I'm paid for that," he says. "Or it's in a fast car and out of here."

The January "relaunch" featured Tony Blair on the cover with the headline "Home Alone", quickly construed in the office as "Ho! Malone". Malone was named "executive editor", effectively Neil's nuncio, who would relay orders to and from New York, Grasse or Onslow Gardens.

Tensions erupted when Jonathan Miller rowed noisily with the female Paris correspondent. "Gentleman Gerry" demanded an apology or resignation. The real issue was the power hierarchy. Miller left. Malone then shot himself in the foot. Following the Scotland—Brazil World Cup match, he returned to the office and made unwelcome suggestive gestures to the young blonde assistant features editor, Nicola Davidson. When she rebuffed him, he clipped her around the head.

It was a foolish move and unacceptable in newspaper offices. Anyone else would have been sacked and when the story got into the papers the judgment was that Neil should show Malone the door. But Malone got off with a warning.

On the newspaper as a whole, the skids were already in place. The new format had not solved the newsagents' old problem about where to put the European on the shelves. The answer usually was: on the bottom.

Neil's insistence on a Monday publication day meant that we were condemned to aping the Sundays — one day late. The loss of old readers was not made good. Circulation collapsed. The Barclays at long last decided to cut their losses and announced that they were seeking buyers.

> **'Gentleman Gerry' Malone then shot himself in the foot. Following the match, he returned to the office and made some unwelcome suggestive gestures to the young blonde assistant features editor**

The idea of a management "buy-out" led by Neil was as much a fantasy as the European's influence in Brussels. US financial information guru Michael Bloomberg and the Time—Warner group both turned down 20 per cent stakes. Raising millions in the City was as good a prospect as selling trouble bonds.

In the final weeks, deserted by Neil, Malone was overheard in his glass cubicle pleading with Tory plutocrats: "This could be the intellectual vehicle of the anti-European movement." But it was not to be.

The European will be remembered as a turkey that never flew but survived more Christmases than anyone predicted. The pundits said it would close within months. Over nearly eight years, as next Thursday's closing party will prove, a remarkable cast of Fleet Street's finest crossed its floor at one time or another in their careers.

But in its final days, the "Mad Max" dream of an internationalist newspaper for the "new Europe" born after the fall of the Berlin Wall, became a last refuge for a handful of xenophobic nationalists from the ruptured rump of the Tory party. I shed no tears at its passing.

Peter Millar was managing editor (news) until his resignation earlier this year



Dramatic move... Michelle Collins

After surviving for almost eight years, the European has finally been axed. But who's to blame for its demise? One-time senior editor **Peter Millar** performs an autopsy on a newspaper that attracted some of Fleet Street's finest, but couldn't solve the riddle of its own identity

Who killed the European?

There is nothing newspaper editors enjoy more than seeing their predictions come true. IN YOUR FACE, they shout, celebrating with a rag-out of the original to prove to loyal readers that they were always backing a winner.

So the European ought to be blowing its own trumpet next Monday. On January 1 1999 the single currency comes into being. The banner headline on the European's first issue in May 1990 proclaimed: "One Money for Europe". Next Monday's European, however, will have little grounds for self-congratulation. It will not just be the last issue this year, but the last ever. Robert Maxwell's dream is dead, after a long illness during which it was cared for by the Barclay Brothers, who invested tens of millions and hired a succession of quacks.

The man who ought to go to his grave with the European's masthead engraved on his heart is Andrew Neil, who arrived on the newsroom floor in May last year with "guarantees" of five years' funding and a plan to turn the "Euro" into a snazzier Economist.

Since losing his battle with Bert Hardy, fellow ex-Murdoch man and chief executive of the Barclays' newspaper empire, then failing in a bid to find outside backers, Neil has disowned the European like an embarrassing relative. He has not been seen among the troops, even to announce its closure.

Having been associated in some way with the European since its launch, I feel sadness at its demise. But also relief that it is being put out of its misery. I was plucked by "Captain Bob" Maxwell from Neil's Sunday Times in 1990 to be the European's deputy editor. It never occurred to either of us that Neil would end up there too.

Arguments with Maxwell began almost immediately. That first front page, for example. I wanted to lead on a worthy exclusive by veteran Observer man Ian Mather about the amount Germany had agreed to pay to repatriate Russian troops from the East.

Bob thought a "splash" ought to make a splash and insisted on a spurious opinion poll which showed that some random sample of European Union citizens were in favour of monetary union. I took the legendary advice of ex-Observer editor Donald Trelford and "swallowed the shit sandwich".

Issue one emerged to widespread dismissal. No new Maxwell publication was going to get an easy ride. Hiring good journalists was hampered by a glut of new newspapers: including the Independent on Sunday and the Sunday Correspondent. Editor Ian Watson was a good production man and former City editor, but he was also a monoglot Scot who once had lunch in Brussels and returned to proclaim: "Ah've bin tae Europe and ah dinnae like it."

What we had going for us was great colour when other broadsheets were still black and white. The USA Today-style weather map remained a readers' favourite until Neil scrapped it. What we lacked was a sense of identity or market. During the Gulf War, Watson produced up to five editions in one day "for the London stations". We were a weekly.

I spent a few months as Maxwell's *aide-de-camp* — which was rather like being Stalin's valet — flying in the Gulfstream to visit Genscher in Bonn, Gorbachev in Moscow, and watch, close up the blood lettings on the seventh floor of Maxwell House. In the end he sacked me. I took the money and ran, continuing to write a column for the paper at arm's length.

Watson was replaced by the man who closed the Sunday Correspondent, John Bryant. The ex-Mail man decided the European needed to reach a broader market. The man on the Clapham omnibus became "the housewife in Toulouse", exhibiting a remarkable and unwarranted faith in the quality of English-language teaching in French schools.

When Maxwell died, Bryant's deputy, Charlie Garside, persuaded the Barclays to invest £1 million in buying the title. Another mid-market man, Garside kept the ship on course, steadily losing money. It pandered to the Barclays' self-esteem to consider themselves press barons: they could put free copies of their own newspaper in their hotels. For seven years the European stumbled along with a circulation of around 135,000, a Rosencrantz or Guildenstern on the fringe of the British media drama: never quite there, never quite dead.

But the European had given the Barclays a taste of media power. They wanted more, for less. Early last year, Neil was taken on to build an empire. The Scotsman group was snapped up, not least because its fine building would make an excellent Edinburgh hotel. After some juggling, Neil appointed editors and let them get on with it. Equally unmolested, ex-Sunday Times business editor Geoff Rundall — against the odds — resurrected the defunct Sunday Business.

The imperial expansion targetted the Independent, but missed. The European became Neil's obsession: turning that around would prove he could do anything. He gathered an emergency cabal of ex-Sunday Express editor Sue Douglas, ex-Economist colleague Jonathan Miller, and me (all of us also ex-Sunday Times). The existing staff presciently called us the "four horsemen".

At first there was genuine fire in the place. The redesign, in the hands of John Belknap, got better and better, looking like a real weekly news magazine, except that the size and paper were still wrong. As an interim it was great, but why bother with an interim?

Old staff were sacked, some necessarily, others less so. Too few were hired. Adverts produced sackfuls of applications, but most were substandard. Neil unilaterally appointed a Brussels bureau chief who couldn't write and had to be replaced within weeks.

A few clever, experienced writers and reporters — including Bob Fox and Walter Ellis — were grafted onto the pruned down professional core of the old staff to create a hard-working, enthusiastic team, but it was a rubber dinghy rather than the supertanker Neil was used to commanding.

The weather map went, as did the crossword. Readers whinged: Neil dismissed them as "retired schoolteachers in the Dordogne". Goal number one was "getting rid of the old readers". Well, we did that okay. To extremes. When I reported to Neil that Helmut Schlesinger, ex-head of the Bundesbank, had told me he considered the European to be simply an "anti-Europe" propaganda sheet, Neil replied: "That's the sort of character we don't need."

The single greatest flaw in the "new" European was didacticism. The last apostle of pure Thatcherism needed a pulpit. The new required readers were "European executives who do business in English and travel club class at least once a week". We behaved as a journal of influence. Without readers. When some comment in the European Parliament was tangentially relevant to one of our leaders, there was an orgy of self-congratulation.

The most frequent comment in conference was "When I was at the Sunday Times". Like Napoleon on Elba reorganising the sewage system, Neil was by turns punctilious about commas — "never before and" — then, distracted by his broadcasting, ill-defined duties for Mohamed Al Fayed or the "villa" in Provence, he would become an absentee for weeks.

After the re-run of the Winchester by-election in which Neil's old university chum, former health minister Gerry Malone, turned the Tories two-vote defeat into a 20,000 disaster, we joked that Neil would appoint this old chum as the editor, as he had once before when Neil put him in charge of the Scottish Sunday Times. He did.

Two months later Malone was appointed "associate editor", who was "just there to help out". His main task was fetching the lunch boxes for the diet they were both on. The idea of a pan-European publication was already forgotten. Our centre of gravity was "offshore", that is, mid-Atlantic. Britain's EU presidency provided a fig leaf for concentrating on the "us and them" attitude to Europe.

The lost continent



May 1990: launched by Robert Maxwell as a broadsheet weekly dedicated to "the ideals of the French Revolution".

February 1991: John "Terminator" Bryant takes over from editor Ian Watson. Circulation around 225,000.

November 1991: with losses estimated at £500,000 per week, Maxwell's death puts the paper in the hands of an administrator. All 145 staff made redundant just before Christmas.

January 1992: secretive Barclay Brothers rescue of the title costs £1 million.

May 1997: four months after becoming editor-in-chief of the Barclays' press portfolio, Andrew Neil takes over as editor.

July 1997: Neil relaunches title as Economist-style magazine. Circulation around 150,000.

June 1998: ex-Tory MP editor Gerry Malone is rebuked by Neil for making advances to and then hitting assistant features editor Nicola Davidson.

September 1998: Barclays announce closure if no sale in 90 days. Claimed circulation 73,000.

Do you have inexplicably strange but magical media fantasies?

Have you got a gut feeling (that you don't like to admit to, or talk about in public) that our digital destinies may not be as bland, limited or mediocre as they are being described? Do you have a sneaky suspicion that our experts don't sound quite sure of what they're talking about?

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL
"Clinton's prerecorded studio denial on the tv news intercast with live transmission of Clinton and Lewinski having sex live on TV.
Televised stockmarket style bidding frenzy for the latest news scandal stories. Open betting on giant interactive touch screens in supermarkets and the internet across the country.
A real life entertainment game show offering you the chance to double your money backing the winning media values of your choice. Better than the bookies. More live than the lottery.
Close to the bone tv video diary of pensioners pleasures with accompanying web site giving tips and hints on how to have the best ever orgasms at 90"

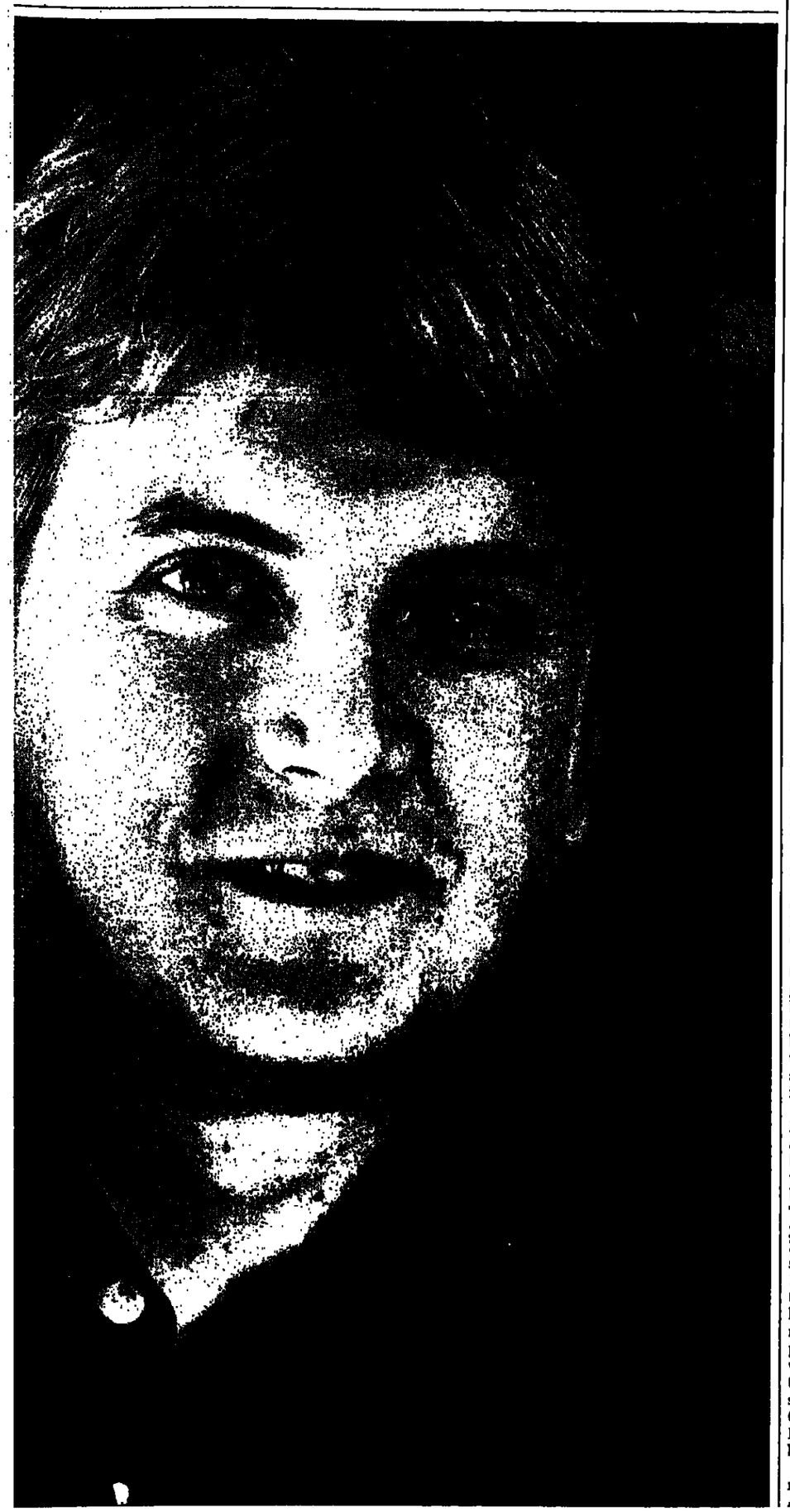
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Closing date for ideas/proposals: 21 December 1998.

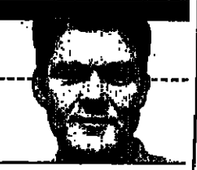
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City of words

John Ryle



Disneyland for the world's dictators

We live in the twilight of the dictators. The military strong men of South America have been removed. The big men of Africa are dying off. Their replacements are increasingly constrained by the hegemony of global capitalism, which finds less use for them now the cold war and by the dissolution, in Africa, though not in South America, of the states over which they preside.

This doesn't mean that the citizens of these countries are any better off, not in Africa anyway, subject as they are to the collapse of government services, the depradations of warlords and the scourge of famine. But responsibility for abuses can no longer be plausibly pinned on a single figure. Armies, insurgents, militias and mafias all take a share. The symbolic location of wickedness has shifted in a way that makes the imposition of international standards of accountability trickier, even as the human rights movement begins to make significant inroads on impunity.

Yet quite a few of the old crocodiles still walk free, and will be enjoying Christmas this year, very likely under the protection of other old crocodiles, while their countrymen suffer the effects of their tyranny. Consider Mengistu Haile Mariam, leader of the Derg, the junta that ruled Ethiopia for most of the 1970s and 1980s, a man who can be held responsible for the imprisonment, torture and murder of thousands of his opponents, as well as the deaths of hundreds of thousands of other Ethiopians and Eritreans in over a decade of civil war.

Mengistu's henchmen are on trial in Addis Ababa, charged with genocide and crimes against humanity, a half-forgotten trial that began in 1994 and has still not been concluded. But since he fled the country in 1991, Mengistu himself has been living in Zimbabwe, in Harare, in an exclusive suburb.

Mengistu's protector, Robert Mugabe, has a few human rights abuses to his name too. He learned his trade in part from Mengistu, who trained units of Zanla, the liberation army led by Mugabe. Today, while Zimbabwe is paralysed by public sector strikes, the Zimbabwean army is controversially deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in support of the regime of Laurent Kabila, the latest despot to emerge in the region. There is little public support for the intervention, which is widely believed to be protecting the Zimbabwean president's personal financial interests in the Congo. Last week, Mugabe was in London, not on official business, but doing his Christmas shopping.

This is reminiscent of the most notorious African autocrat, Idi Amin Dada, now also in comfortable exile, in Saudi Arabia. In the 1970s, Amin arrived unannounced one day at Heathrow in his private plane. An audience with the Queen was hastily arranged. Over coffee the Queen asked him "To what do we owe the unexpected honour of your visit?" Her guest, at 18 stone the heaviest as well as the most bloodthirsty of modern tyrants, chuckled and replied, "In Uganda, Your Majesty, it is very difficult to find a pair of size 14 shoes." How they love to shop, these big men. It's a cross-cultural phenomenon, the Imelda Marcos syndrome. When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping. Babydoc Duvalier, the former dictator of Haiti, now living in France, was one for shopping, too. Until his wife made off with all the money.

How unfortunate that Mengistu cannot accompany Mugabe on his jaunt. But he may have an inkling that his patron's days are numbered. A few months ago it was reported that he had been discussing political asylum with North Korea. Again, dictators sticking together: it was the Koreans who trained the notorious Fifth Brigade of the Zimbabwean Army, involved in the murder of dissidents in Zimbabwe in the early 1980s.

Mengistu in Pyongyang. That's a really good idea. Why don't they all go there, all the dictators, and enjoy the hospitality of one of the last old-style totalitarian regimes in the world? Mengistu, Mugabe, Amin, Stroessner, Pinochet, Saddam Hussein, Babydoc Duvalier. Together in one run-down villa with out heat or running water. Let Pyongyang be their prison. Let them do their shopping in the empty arcades of the North Korean economic disaster. Kim Jong Il, the son and successor of Kim Il Sung, will be particularly pleased to welcome Babydoc Duvalier. They will have plenty to talk about.

It may seem a bit unfair on the people of North Korea. But such a collection of dictators could become a tourist attraction once freedom comes to the country. To look at. Pyongyang is already a kind of Dictators' Disneyland, a museum of totalitarian kitsch. The superannuated autocrats could form the core of a museum of bad government. And, as they die off, a mausoleum of dictatorship, a memorial to the old days, when wickedness was embodied in all-powerful individuals.

Dream on. Oh, I will. In the meantime a comfortless Christmas to all the old monsters, wherever they may be. I shall be absent from this space for the next six weeks, so a happy Christmas to all of you.

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Shown the door . . . 'It's the paper that won't be gagged,' says Fox, 'but it's happy to gag its journalists'

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN PAGET

tears I'll never know, as I truthfully described how I'd given my all to the newspaper over the last eight years and now felt sad and insulted. My first and only display of emotion at the News of the World seemed to slightly unnerve him. I recall his trademark tight-lipped sneer softening for a split second and remember how he couldn't look me in the eye as he nervously fiddled with his trousers. I actually thought he was going to do or say something human. I was wrong.

He regained his composure as I got up to leave, saying I had an appointment with my lawyer. I said goodbye and he didn't even have the courtesy to reply. The walk from his office to the lift was one of the longest of my life. Colleagues either put their heads down or gave me an embarrassed smile. No one spoke. I felt like a leper. The furore was the gossip of the office. Everyone knew they were now looking at an ex-member of staff and I sensed a feeling of them not wanting to blot their copy books by mixing with the "enemy".

Thanks to my lawyer, I was able to leave the News of the World with some pride and dignity. Although the managing editor never conceded that the newspaper wanted me out, he agreed to compensate me for "loss of office" if I left that day. I wasn't sacked and didn't resign. They wrote me a decent reference and I agreed to help with any legal matters involving stories I'd written.

I've spent the three months since then recovering — yes, it takes that long to get over eight years at the News of the World. I've travelled, spent time with family and friends and generally re-educated myself on real life. Until recently I thought it was normal to be on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, even while on holiday. I thought 12-hour working days were normal. I thought that never being able to relax for fear of being needlessly and continuously pestered on the phone was normal. I thought conflict, misery and ruining people's lives in the name of tabloid journalism was normal. Indeed; I did not understand why "outsiders" thought I was abnormal.

Of course there were many good things about the News of the World: the salary, the company car, the expenses, the travel, the six weeks leave — and, yes, some of the stories were even worthwhile. I exposed hundreds of people, from corrupt coppers to bogus doctors, who were up to no good and stopped as a result of my work. Some were even sent to prison.

Then there were the bad times and the bad stories. I lost count of the wife-swapping and sex parties I had to go to, undercover. Being groped by a pervert for the sake of a story was not the reason I went into journalism. Neither was getting pushed down a flight of stairs by a drug-dealing Triad. Neither was having to hire male prostitutes and, after taking them up to a hotel room, making my excuses in order to get them out. Neither was risking my life on numerous occasions, such as the time I had to buy drugs off a dealer with a murder conviction and, another time, when I got caught up in a football stadium riot.

As a News of the World reporter you have one remit: get the story. Nobody cares how you do it, or how many rules you break. You're not encouraged to break the PCC code of conduct but there is an unspoken acceptance that you may have to. The important thing is not to get caught and, when things go wrong, not to admit to breaking rules. Obviously you try not to break the rules, but the massive pressure put on you means sometimes you have no choice.

It was an amazing, rollercoaster ride. There was the time I hid in a cupboard to expose a kinky bank manager — at a prearranged signal from the prostitute I had to jump out to confront him. Then there was Vivienne Westwood, who we accused of being in Milan having fertility treatment when, actually, she was there to put on a fashion show. Or Tony Banks, the Labour MP, who told me he thought soft drugs should be legalised, then denied it when it went in the paper. Jockey Willie Carson, who threatened to set his dogs on me when I asked his wife about her health problems. David Puttnam, who threw me off his premises with a four-letter tirade.

I'm philosophical about my departure, I'm not bitter. Actually, they did me a favour. I'm now working on more fulfilling projects. I still smart at how it happened. There is no doubt I was forced out because I spoke the truth.

For me, however, one question remains. Who guards the guardians? And, perhaps more importantly, who investigates the investigators?

My media



Graeme Le Saux

Newspapers: I read the Guardian almost every day. I look at some other papers, but don't buy them, and sometimes read the Sunday Times and Observer. I particularly like the Weekend Guardian, G2 and the quick crossword.
Magazines: I'm not a big fan of magazines, although one of my best friends is an editor at Arena so I sometimes get free copies. Also, FHM for my sins and the National Geographic.
Books: All-time favourites are Lord Of The Rings and classic books like Brave New World and 1984. I read a lot of modern novels — Colin Bateman, James Hawes and PJ O'Rourke. On holiday I'd take any fun book that's quite easy to read. I'm reading a book by Giles Smith called Lost In Music, which I got given two years ago and which is supposed to epitomise young men and their record collections. I fit into that category.
Television: Ally McBeal (top programme) and then ER. I like the David Attenborough programmes about birds — sounds a bit anoraky, but they're interesting. The Christmas lecture and anything on the National Geographic and Discovery channels.
Radio: The Evening Session on Radio 1 is very good. Virgin in the mornings, with Chris and Jonathan Ross, we actually prefer Jonathan, but they're both funny. Sometimes Radio 4 and Kiss FM.
Film: There are so many great films, new and old. I like Delicatessen very much. I like French films. The Star Wars trilogy — I'm looking forward to the prequel. Sentimental films as well: Good Will Hunting, Sliding Doors, As Good As It Gets. I like Jack Nicholson. Also, Tarantino and Scorsese.
Ads: I saw a good one today, a new British Airways one. It takes a minute to work out: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P . . . R S T U V W X Y Z. I got to Q and there wasn't one. I always wanted to do advertising.
Multimedia: We have a computer and the Internet, but I don't really need access to it regularly.

Graeme Le Saux plays for Chelsea and England.
Interview: Carolyne Ellis

CHANNEL SALES MANAGERS
Meet Simon Taylor
TRAINEE IT HEADHUNTERS
MAC OPERATOR

Diary

The Media Diary is proud to announce a remarkable victory. Two weeks ago we put out a plea for someone to rescue John Motson this winter after he admitted his famous sheepskin coat was heading for the knacker's yard and his supplier had "gone missing". A&D Hope (manufacturers of leather, suede, fur fabrics and fashion garments, Borehamwood) contacted us with a breathless fax. It contains the happy news that they have been in touch with Mr Motson, and the football guru will be visiting their premises in the New Year to choose a new sheepskin. Isn't the power of the press remarkable?

Sun executives are desperately worried. Such is the tension between editor David Yelland, number two Rebekah Wade, number three Andy Coulson and the searing depression among the staff that the Christmas party is in danger of turning into a wake. Executives have hired Leo Sayer to sing some of his greatest hits and have bought 500 wigs so that people can dress up as him and have a laaaarf. Well, as we said, it's getting desperate.

Makers of dodgy documentaries have been getting their comeuppance elsewhere of late, but at big-hearted Channel 4 festive forgiveness seems to be the order of the day. Back in January, the Cutting Edge film Rogue Males provided the channel with its worst headlines of the year — when certain scenes involving petty criminals and cowboy builders in Manchester were exposed for being staged. Newly-arrived factual supremo Steve Hewlett was forced to issue an apology. So the director was told never to darken C4's door again? Au contraire. Tomorrow's Cutting Edge, The Outsiders (urging compassion for outcasts) represents a second chance for Dominic Savage, who made Rogue Males. This forgiving approach contrasts sharply with Hewlett's, who is now at, ahem, Carlton. Asked at Edinburgh if he'd ever give Savage another commission, Hewlett replied: "Yes ... in drama."

As Channel 4 prepares to launch its new-look 7pm news programme this week, they have hired a press officer to handle things. She goes by the sumptuous name of Louise Muddle.

She broke the Mandy Allwood story, exposed kinky managers and was shortlisted for awards. But when **Aylia Fox** talked about press morality on the radio, her News of the World bosses decided she had to go. Here she relives her fight — and reveals the murky world of tabloid double standards

Goodbye cruel World

The News of the World is famous — some would say infamous — for its frank and fearless exposés of the rich, famous and those in the public eye. Its reporters, and I know because until recently I was one, are encouraged never to take "no" for an answer. The public has a right to know the truth, so the dictum goes. Except, that is, when it applies to the News of the World, as I learned to my cost.

When the paper has something to hide — like, for example, its own modus operandi — a massive case of double standards seems to apply. It is the paper that won't be gagged, to use its own shorthand journalese, but it's also a newspaper that is quite happy to gag or censure its own journalists.

Don't do as we do, but do as we say, read the lesson from Wapping when I was told — after eight years as a staff reporter on Britain's best-selling Sunday newspaper — that when you work for the News of the World "you're not allowed to have opinions and, if you do, you mustn't express them".

The astonishing remark was made by my news editor, Clive Goodman, who also has the title royal editor, a matter of hours after I had taken part in a radio programme which ended my News of the World career. My crime was to express a purely personal opinion — in public.

I did not leave my £40,000-a-year-job out of choice. I loved being an investigative journalist on a national newspaper and had aspired to be one since school. When interviewed by Media Guardian in 1989 as a trainee reporter on the Kentish Times, I revealed my ambition and had been rewarded with reporting shifts.

However, nine years on, at the age of 32, I was still enthusiastic and the satisfaction of finding and researching a story, writing it up and seeing my name in print outweighed the drawbacks of a tabloid hack's crazy lifestyle.

I'd not done too badly. To last so long on the same newspaper in such a cut-throat industry is an achievement in itself, some would say, and in the four months prior to my departure I got more stories in than most other reporters — a fact acknowledged by executives in the final months of my employment. I was also responsible for some of the newspaper's major exclusives over the years — such as the Mandy Allwood eight-baby-pregnancy story in 1996. I was shortlisted twice for reporter of the year awards and holding down the posts of medical and Midlands correspondent simultaneously, so I like to think I'd at least earned the respect of my peers.

Not, it seems, the respect of the people in charge of the News of the World — a small group of men whose inability to deal with women is eclipsed only by their fear of upsetting the Press Complaints Commission.

And this is where I, unwittingly, upset the apple cart.

I was flattered to be invited on Radio 5 Live's Late Night Currie show, presented by former Tory MP Edwina Currie. I was to take part in a debate on press coverage of the President Clinton sex scandal. Along with two other journalists, from France and Italy, we were to discuss the media's focus on the salacious details of Kenneth Starr's enquiry. Calls from the public would springboard debate.

The show was broadcast on August 16, the day before Clinton gave evidence about Monica Lewinsky to the Grand Jury. I discussed my opinions on the media's rightful role in revealing details about the President's extra-marital affairs and, when the debate shifted to a more general discussion about press intrusion on the private lives of British politicians, I said this was justified too.



Apparently the editor Phil Hall (left) was 'incandescent with anger' because I'd caused him 'acute embarrassment'. As a new member of the Press Complaints Commission, he was trying to keep a low profile

I argued that because politicians are merely the democratically elected representatives of the public, then the public has a right to know what they're getting up to. I said when politicians put themselves forward for election, they are asking people to trust them, not only as a politician but as a person too. I claimed if it was found they couldn't be trusted in their private lives then it might follow that they couldn't be trusted to carry out their professional duties. I suggested that, if it wasn't for the press, much political hypocrisy would never come to light.

This is what I believe and I reckon it's fairly standard for most journalists. I also believe it's unfair to pry into the private lives of people who find themselves on the periphery of public life simply through their association with someone. I expressed this view too.

While I knew the subject matter was sensitive, I did not think I was saying anything controversial or out of line with tabloid thinking. I made it very clear what I was saying was my opinion and never suggested I was speaking for the News of the World.

I was feeling quite chuffed with my performance — until my first day back at work. Within 30 minutes I was telephoned by David Rigby, deputy news editor, who demanded to know who had given me permission to go on the show. I said no one and there was a stony silence. (Actually I had mentioned it in passing to that very person when he'd asked several days earlier what I was doing that weekend).

An hour later he rang back saying the managing editor, Stuart Kuttner, wanted a full memo on the circumstances. I obliged and got on with my work. An hour later the phone rang again. This time I was informed I was in "big trouble". Apparently the editor, Phil Hall, was "incandescent with anger" because I'd caused him "acute embarrassment." It was explained to me that, as a new member of the Press Complaints Commission, he was trying to keep a low profile on sensitive subjects such as press intrusion. My comments had, apparently, compromised him. I was told that News International had yet to decide its policy, and that only the editor and managing editor could speak on the subject.

The next day I was given the "you don't have opinions" lecture. The official summons to see the managing editor followed, at 11am the next day. I was told it was to discuss my "relocation to London". I knew immediately what this meant — I was out.

I knew this because the matter of my returning to work in the London office had been raised earlier in the year. They wanted me to. I didn't. They said I was wasted in the Midlands and could become a "star" at head office where the big stories are dished out. I disagreed, valuing my independence as a district reporter who finds stories rather than gets handed them. I said I'd resign rather than be based in Wapping. I'd spent my first four years on the News of the World there. The reason I volunteered to become Midlands correspondent was to escape the miserable, regimented, oppressive, back-stabbing, soul-destroying office atmosphere.

So, the matter was duly forgotten — until they needed an excuse to remember it. On August 20, 1998, that moment arrived. Desperate to get rid of someone they'd come to see as a "loose cannon", they knew they couldn't dismiss me for expressing a personal opinion on the radio, in my own time. So I think they hoped that if they told me I had to relocate to London, then I'd resign and, in doing so, would solve the problem for them.

Fat chance. I knew I had to act fast. The meeting was the following day. I called my immediate boss, Greg Miskiw, assistant editor, news. I didn't want his sympathy but, as a former reporter, he always claimed to be "one of us" not "one of them". I thought I might get some advice or support. But without any compassion he told me my News of the World career was over.

He accused me of being either naive or stupid for thinking I could go on the radio without repercussions. He added that I shouldn't expect to get any sort of pay-off. I knew then it was time to ring a lawyer and contacted one at Peter Carter-Ruck. His advice was to go to the meeting, note everything said, commit to nothing and then report back to him.

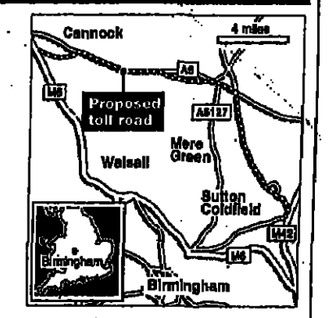
The meeting took no longer than 15 minutes. As the lawyer expected, the broadcast was not mentioned by the managing editor. Instead, he said, there had been a completely unrelated decision to move me to London. He said the matter wasn't up for discussion and referred me to my contract, which states staff can be relocated at any time. He said the only thing remaining was to arrange a start date.

I've always been a straight-talking person and didn't see why I should stop now. I told him I knew what was going on. When he denied wanting to get rid of me, claiming I was a "valued member of staff", I told him about the discussion I'd had with my immediate boss. He flinched but somehow managed to keep a straight face while claiming the timing of the re-location was purely coincidental.

How I managed to hold back the

Story Last week, Dean was guarding Britain's first toll road against protesters. This week, he joined them in direct action against the contractors. **John Vidal** met him — and Muppet Dave, Gunter, Fungus and OJ — in a hole in the ground near Birmingham

Going underground



Dean is 23, calm, measured, coherent and not one to make rash decisions or prejudge people. Yet last week this polite younger son of a former Nottinghamshire miner swapped suit and tie, good friends and family for a dank tunnel and foot-stomping weather in the trenches of a 16-year-old battle to prevent Britain's first private toll road carving up 27 miles of the Midlands.

On the surface, Dean's decision to defect from a temporary security guard employed to help the eviction of protesters on the Birmingham Northern Relief Road to protester himself is bizarre. Why should a clean-living boy with good prospects want to risk being charged with manslaughter, be spied on by the intelligence services or be filmed by the police in helicopters.

Why, indeed, should a man who has never joined a political party or ever demonstrated against anything be prepared to be evicted by former SAS men, and risk being sued by the state? What is going on when a new model Briton decides to live with nothing except his ideals?

This is Dean's story. Like many other road protesters' tales, it's a rite of personal and political passage and it sheds some light on the frustrations of the young and the nature of courage and idealism in Britain today, as well as the gap between Westminster politics and the politics that affect everyday lives.

Dean, a trained telephone engineer, was made redundant six weeks ago and took a temporary job as a guard on the road near the village of Mere Green. He'd never seen a protest site. This one was in ruined farm buildings with a fortified courtyard and a drawbridge. The chimneys sprouted gaudy flags, Father Christmases and an effigy of Environment Secretary John Prescott was hanging from gallows. The people looked like a post-holocaust society, extras from Mad Max or a medieval siege but they laughed in the squalor, he noted.

Bussed in from Nottingham with 150 others, he spent his night shifts chatting to the protesters. Perhaps it was fortuitous that he talked to OJ and Emma, two vegan protesters who are undeniably bright and beautiful and who had just given up their jobs on an organic farm in Somerset. The girls, Muppet Dave, Gunter, Disco Dave, Fungus and the others gave the facts: the road will be 27 miles long, between six and 18 lanes wide, take out 1,000 acres of land, affect three schools, 100 sites of ecological interest, destroy 29 archeological sites ...

But Dean likes to hear both sides of arguments before deciding anything. His reaction, like most people's, was that this may be terrible in itself but surely that was the price to pay for relieving the appalling traffic congestion around Birmingham? Wouldn't it help business, provide jobs, relieve congestion?


Changing lanes ... Dean says 'This is about natural justice and rights'

No, said the protesters. The road would generate traffic and just move the congestion further on. They reeled off more alarming statistics, arguments and rumours: the road would divide communities and farmland, and pollute with noise, light and dust everyone within miles. It was, after all, to be three times longer than the Newbury bypass. Dean was impressed by their intelligence and knowledge but what shook him was the passion and anger.

It is to be Britain's first major toll road, leased from the state to a consortium of private companies who will hand it back after 53 years. It will be built by a Norwegian company, run by Italians and its £700 million cost will be raised through international loans. So, the protesters say, nothing will go back into the community. And, like a mortgage, the British will end up paying billions (the government figure is secret) for driving through the Midlands.

Dean was shaken. He knew nothing of this. Why, he asked, was this happening? Where was the debate? Why was the government allowing it? Surely he knew, said the protesters, that Labour had promised both verbally and in writing when in opposition to cancel the road, and that many people in the area had voted specifically for them on that basis?

Bells began ringing. "When I first met these people they seemed to talk from the same place as me. I hadn't thought much about roads, but I care about the environment — this is about natural justice and rights. They [the protesters] were political about what really matters. I saw them making a stand against all the bad stuff in the world. I knew they gave the right answers," said Dean.

He spent six days and nights torturing himself over what to do. He wanted, instinctively, to join them but worried about how his family would react. He says he felt he had to do it but was well aware of the size of the decision and how hard a life it can be as a protester. "I've always felt political but not party political. I never knew anyone cared. What got to me were the lies. Why don't governments or business' say they want to build roads because they want to make huge profits? I'm sick of being screwed over."

But there was something bigger than the road. "From five years on," says Dean, "you are modelled to be a certain person, but I don't need a government saying you can do this or that. I'm tired of being manipulated. It seems we work for governments and they do not work for us. We don't get a say about how our money is used. Governments seem to be there for the rich. They pretend to be interested in the working class but they're not.

"All I have done is what other people expected me to do. But it's a blag, a spell. I don't believe in Tony Blair. Freedom seems to come only if you have so much money or if you have nothing at all.

"I know that no government can make everything equal, so you have to do things like this, form your own little community. Maybe it's the only true democracy you can have."

Dean swapped sides at 7.30am on Wednesday. It was, he says now, "the biggest decision" he had ever made. There were cheers, a press conference and celebrations. His parents were supportive, which made him feel much better, too. Emma says he knew that Dean was wavering from the start because he was asking so many questions. OJ says that her first thoughts on seeing him were that she fancied his jacket.

Dean's world is now a group of ruined farm buildings with a maze of tunnels below. Up to 40 people, ranging from "hardcore" protesters with dozens of campaigns under their belts, to "yoghurt weavers" (who believe they can save the world) and novices come and go.

It's the usual mix of deprecating, black humour, mutual support and trench-talk. "Got the AK47s, the vats of burning oil and grenades, then, Disco?" asks one man. "Eyah. And some nice missiles."

It is surreally British and good-humoured. The eviction has officially started and bailiffs wander round the site, yet scaffolding towers and building materials for more fortifications are still getting in. Locals deliver birthday cakes and provisions but journalists are barred by the authorities "for safety reasons".

The protesters have been warned that they could be liable for manslaughter or any accidents that happen during the eviction. Yet, every week, they also take some time out to teach delegations of Staffordshire police about the methods and aims of direct action. "The police turn up, stand in a semicircle and we tell them what we're doing. Then we have questions and answers," says Muppet Dave.

Meanwhile David Shawcross, a local Methodist minister who climbs trees, goes down tunnels and debates natural theology, is planning to hold a never-ending service when the eviction proper starts. A Victorian act of parliament allows no man to interrupt a service.

Soon it will get deadly serious. When the police and the "Men in Black" (the ex-SAS team usually employed to bring protesters out of tunnels) arrive, the protesters will lift their drawbridge, slam the doors and hope for an expensive siege that will delay the road and embarrass the Government. They talk of spending more than a month underground.

Last night, after helping with the night watch, keeping an eye on police, guards or bailiffs, Dean wormed his way underground again and slept "warm as toast" in a minute chamber.

He wakes, he says, in the pitch dark not sure where he is, what day or time it is or what will happen next. But he says he knows exactly what he is doing for the first time ever.

Women

The age of dissent

Michele Hanson



Bye-bye baby

Daughter came home for the weekend from university. "I'm going home on Monday morning," says she blithely. Home? What a blow to me. Her home is now elsewhere. On Monday she packs her own bag, makes her own Marmite and cucumber sandwiches for the train and doesn't even ask for a lift to the station.

How marvellous! At last Daughter is a grown-up — independent, able to travel about Britain by herself and no longer needs her packing and homework supervised. I have been looking forward to this for years. Recently I have even ordered her not to ask me for lifts. "I'm working!" I have shouted crabbily. "It may not look like it to you but I am working, I too have another life and I am not your chauffeur and chambermaid blah blah."

But just as Daughter leaves the house, I lift up her bag. It weighs a ton. And she hasn't really left herself much time, so she'll have to rush up and down stairs and escalators lugging the enormous bag, then she'll be all hot, exhausted and upset, and may miss her train and be late for her lecture.

Suddenly I have a desperate longing to drive her to the station. I bite my lip and wave her off. She staggers off down the road. Will she pull a muscle in her arm? Will she wreck her spine? I address myself strictly. "Do not offer her a lift to Euston. Your baby is a grown-up."

I am in turmoil in the kitchen. An hour passes. Will Daughter ring sobbing from the station because she's missed the train? No. Everything must be fine. I am not needed.

Luckily Daughter has left a chum staying in her room here temporarily while he searches for a flat. Good. I can wake him up in the mornings when he oversleeps and sometimes cook his dinner. And his mates visit and tramp up and down the stairs. The house is still full of youth. Daughter whizzes home at weekends to visit them, but soon the chum is leaving as well. Then my house will be as empty as Rosemary's. Rosemary's boy is further away and even more independent. He rarely phones and demands little, so she's sent him an advent calendar. "It's a grown-up one," she says sensibly. "Without chocolates, of course."

We've all done it, haven't we? Had one too many at the office party and woken with the headache from hell and a vague recollection of doing something we wish we hadn't. But what effect does alcohol really have on a woman's sexuality? **Hettie Judah** reports

The secret at the bottom of the bottle

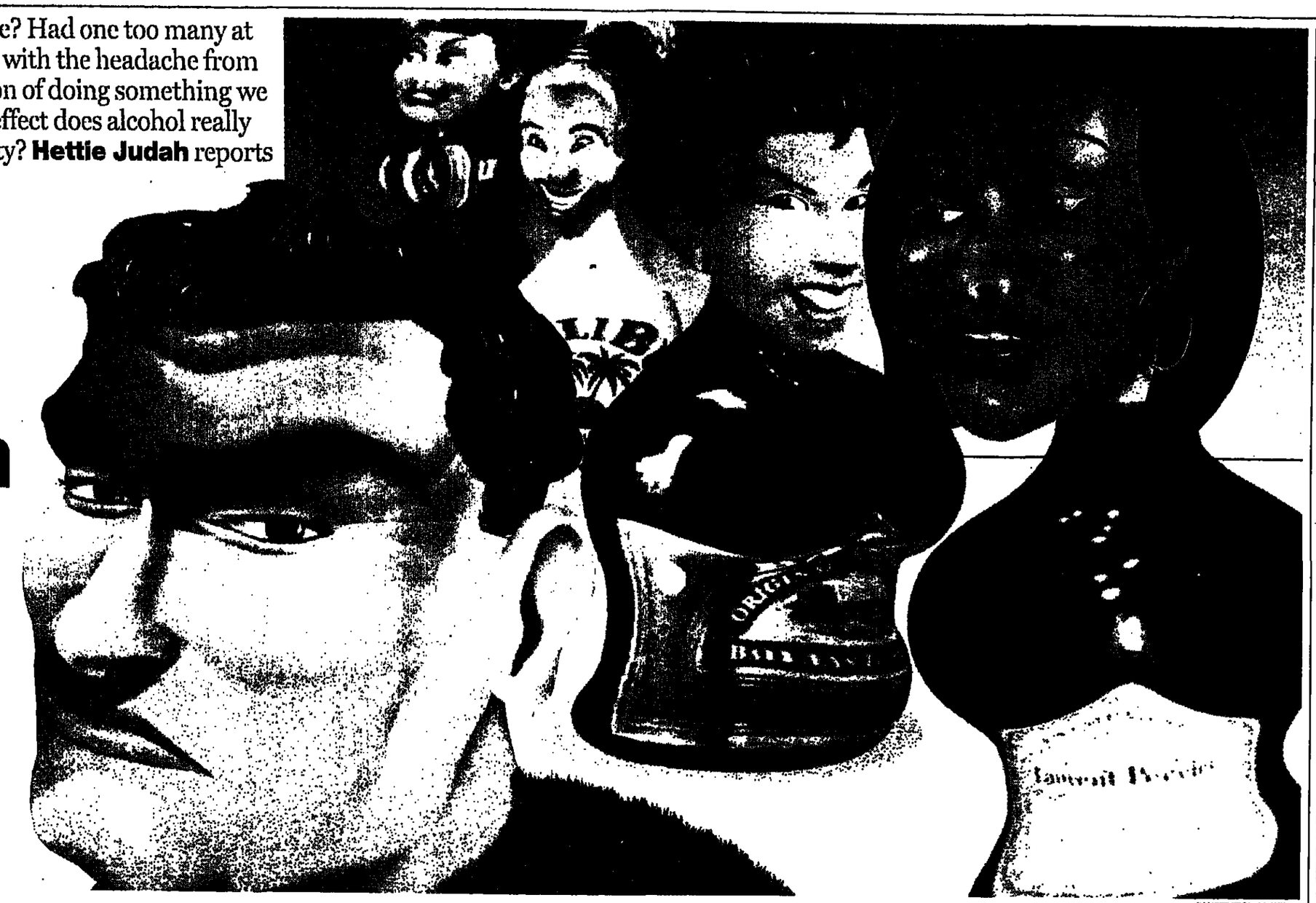


ILLUSTRATION: MAX ELLIS

Stand-up comedian Jeff Green tells a story about coming back from the pub and waking up your girlfriend with unwanted advances; he talks about being drunk and how sex becomes "like trying to play snooker with a rope". Alcohol, sex and Mr Green, it transpires, have something of a tragic relationship. Of course, it's different for women; women don't have to get it up after six pints of lager. Green imagines what would happen if alcohol did actually render women sexually incapacitated; he does a sketch about sympathetic boyfriends nipping downstairs to get the car jack so that they can crank their grateful girlfriends' legs apart.

It is very funny because, as legend and experience tell us, there is nothing more likely to make a woman spread 'em than a litre of Babycham. After epic poetry and candlelight, booze is the oldest seduction tool in the book. "Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker" as Ogden Nash puts it.

The powerful disinhibitory effects of alcohol are, of course, a double-edged sword. Women who drink moderately, between 6 and 21 units per week, are less likely to report sexual dysfunction than light or heavy drinkers. "Women don't become more aroused but they do become less inhibited," says Professor Griffith Edwards, editor of the medical journal Addiction. "Drink isn't intrinsically a bad thing; it may overcome shyness and let women get near sex that is fun in a way they wouldn't do when they were sober."

Drink can help women enjoy sex more, but this is as much to do with a learned response — that drink lets you have fun — as it is with the actual effect of the alcohol. This same disinhibitory effect also means drunkenness is overwhelmingly associated with sex women don't want to have.

Lisa Knott of the Manchester Brook Advisory centre confirms: "Much of the time, the reason people present here for emergency contraception is because they had too much to drink the night before and didn't use contraception. Half the young people who come are hungover and have slept with people they would not have slept with if they were sober."

The evidence isn't just anecdotal, either. A report published today by the Health Education Authority states that one in seven young people have had unsafe sex after drinking; one in five have had sex they later regretted; and one in 10 have found themselves unable even to remember whether they had sex the night before.

"I f***k people I don't want to all the time," says Sacha, 31. "I'm a total flirt when I'm pissed and after all that it seems unfair to say no. Sometimes I'll want to snog them, not do the whole thing, but when you're that far gone, it's easier just to let it happen and not think about it. I can hardly remember in the morning anyway."

Sacha's behaviour is fairly common among the young women I spoke to, most of whom, while not heavy drinkers, are confirmed party girls who tend to binge-drink at weekends. It is the kind of experience Edwards considers "very near to sexual abuse".

Such drunken promiscuity is often the result of social expectation rather than inebriate lasciviousness. A study carried out in America in the late 1980s showed a woman drinking alcohol was seen as "easier" than a woman sticking to soft drinks. This perception intensified if the drinks were being bought for her by a man.

When women I spoke to reported having unwanted sex while under the influence of alcohol, most knew at the time they didn't want to sleep with him; they went along with it because they were drunk and felt they should. In other words, this was not the regret of the morning after, but a series of actions dictated by social perceptions of how drunken women behave.

This kind of behaviour is fairly well documented. What has been less well reported is what happens when drunk women have sex with people they *do* want to sleep with. And the physiological effects of alcohol are absolutely the reverse of popular expectation.

"It has become embarrassing," says Chloe, 27. "I go for a night out with a guy and we'll have a drink, then go for a meal and drink some more, then go back to my flat for another drink. All the time I'll be looking at him thinking 'I can't wait to get you into bed' and then we'll get there, I'll be really wanting to have sex with him, and he'll put his hand down there and I'll be totally dry. It's got to the point now where I'm so worried about it happening that I think I'm making it worse."

Another woman describes the same problem. She says she now insists on only having oral sex with men when she's drunk because it stops them noticing her apparent lack of arousal.

Dr Moira Plant, who has written on the subject, confirms that this is not unusual. "Alcohol dries up the vaginal secretions," she explains. "It also thickens the cervical mucus. The vaginal blood flow is reduced, like a kind of female brewer's droop, which reduces sensation and makes penetration more uncomfortable."

According to Plant, women with problem drinking often experience difficulty in having a penetrative relationship with a man. This in turn can lead to women "dosing" themselves with alcohol as an anaesthetic against the pain of sex. It is a syndrome Edwards reports is also common among prostitutes, who will drink and take drugs to block out the trauma of their experience.

Alcohol depresses the central nervous system and the desensitising can also make it harder for women to achieve arousal and orgasm during consensual sex when drunk. Little research has been conducted into this area; indeed women's sexual anatomy still appears mysterious to medical practitioners. Only this summer, an Australian urologist discovered that the accepted anatomy of the clitoris is wildly inaccurate: it is actually double the size textbooks show it to be. The tiny visible section is connected to a pyramid-shaped mass of erectile tissue, about the size of the top of a thumb, and two "arms" extend from this, reaching almost to the muscle endings of the inner thigh.

Since women experience a similar reduction in blood flow to the sex organs as men when drunk (the cause of infamous inebriate impotence), it seems likely they will suffer similar erectile problems. While this doesn't prevent penetrative sex, it will inhibit stimulation and enjoyment.

So this Christmas, as the boss tries to push you up against the photocopier at the office party, forget headaches and jokes about car jacks. Just gaze at him unsteadily and slur: "I'm sorry, Mr B, I just don't think I can get it up."

Read on...

In print

Alcohol, Gender & Culture, ed Dimitra Madianou (Routledge)

Women And Alcohol by Dr Moira Plant (Free Association Books)

The Treatment Of Drinking Problems by Prof Griffith Edwards (Cambridge University Press)

On the net

http://alcoholism.miningco.com/msubeffect.htm — a page of net links on the physical and psychological effects of alcohol.

http://www.alcoweb.com/ — includes information pages on women and alcohol.

American teenagers may have made peace with their quirky faces but it's all-out war on their bodies. **Sharon Krum** reports

The big nose stays, the spare tyre goes

Supermodel Claudia Schiffer has a face so perfect, it might have been designed by computer. Erin O'Connor does not. Her eyes are too wide, her nose plainly crooked. And yet while Schiffer has been consigned to the backbench, O'Connor is the darling of the fashion flock: this year, her imperfect face became the new image of Chanel.

The fact that Chanel traded Claudia for Erin did not go unnoticed by self-conscious adolescent girls in the US. According to new statistics, more teenagers than ever are undergoing cosmetic surgery in the US; what is even more startling is the change in procedures they are having. Nose jobs and ear-pinning are down, according to the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons; liposuction and breast implants for the under-18s are up. So while American teenagers today seem to be making peace with their individual, quirky faces, it's all-out war on bodies they perceive as more Sophie Dahl than Pamela Anderson.

From 5,519 teenage nose jobs in 1992, there were only 4,313 in 1996, the latest year for which figures are available — a drop of 22 per cent. Ear-pinning dropped in the same period from 3,024 to 2,470 (down 18 per cent). From 978 breast implants in 1992, meanwhile, there were 1,172 in 1996 (a 20 per cent increase) and liposuction cases in teens increased by 67 per cent, from 472 to 788.

"There has been a perceptible shift in the way teenage girls think about body image," says Elizabeth Brous, beauty director of Seventeen, the biggest-selling magazine for adolescent girls in the US. "When girls are offered these unconventional women as models of what is beautiful, it influences them. There has also been a big shift toward finding role models in actresses who are less than perfect."

However, the diverse images presented seem to exist only from the neck up. The bodies that are celebrated as sexually desirable in 1998 fashion magazines are still fat-free (Kate Moss, Jodie Kidd) or fat-free with oversized breasts (Pamela Anderson, Geri Halliwell). Witness how Monica Lewinsky was pilloried in the press for being overweight.

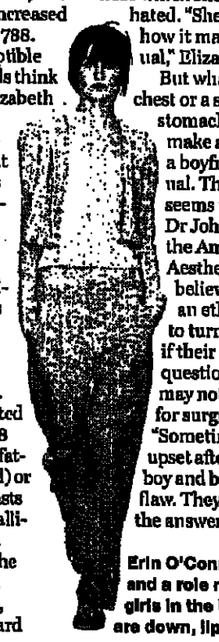
This, according to Brous, explains the new push toward liposuction and breast implants. "The pressure to be thin is out there. Television, movies — teenagers are bombarded by it so much more than 10 years ago."

There is a focus for all women on achieving the perfect body, but the problem for teenagers is they are unusually body-conscious and may see surgery as a way to fix themselves. "They used to want a car, now they want thin thighs," says leading US psychologist Dr Joyce Brothers.

It is Mummy and Daddy who usually foot the bill, with liposuction running up to $5,000 and breast augmentation $3-5,000. And if parents don't have the cash, companies such as Cooperative Images, a plastic surgery finance company which advertises on the Internet, are only too happy to oblige. And with no-money-down deals and payments as low as $38 per month, a determined teenager could even pay off her breast implants with a job at McDonald's.

Seventeen magazine, meanwhile, is trying to combat the race to perfection. In the upcoming February issue, a feature entitled Don't Fix It, Flaunt It encourages teenage girls to celebrate their prominent noses, freckles or pale skin. Actress Sofia Coppola, daughter of director Francis Ford Coppola, has a big nose which she admits she once hated. "She told us she now sees how it makes her so individual," Elizabeth Brous explains.

But what if Sofia had no chest or a spare tyre for a stomach? That may not make a 15-year-old without a boyfriend feel so individual. The real issue here seems to be self-esteem and Dr John Penn, president of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, believes surgeons have an ethical responsibility to turn teenagers away if their motives are questionable. "Some teens may not be mature enough for surgery," he says. "Sometimes they might be upset after a break-up with a boy and blame it on a body flaw. They think liposuction is the answer. It isn't."



Erin O'Connor, face of Chanel and a role model for adolescent girls in the US ... Nose jobs are down, liposuction is up